THE
MONTHLY REVIEW,
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ART. I. *The* Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt's *Travels through the United States of North America.*

[*Article concluded from the last Review.*]

HAVING so closely accompanied M. de Liancourt in his first tour, we must content ourselves with giving a general sketch of the rest of his travels, and taking notice of some of the most remarkable parts of his narrative.

In his second tour, the Duke visited South Carolina and Georgia; travelled through the province of Virginia to the Blue Mountains; and returned through Baltimore into Pennsylvania. He left Philadelphia in the end of March 1796, in a vessel bound to Charleston; and in this passage he remarked the little respect shewn by the Americans to men in high public situations, some of his fellow-passengers being of that description. Of Charleston he says; 'Every thing peculiar to the buildings of this place is formed to moderate the excessive heats; the windows are open, and the doors pass through both sides of the houses.' Some of the opulent inhabitants prefer wooden houses, which they believe to be cooler than brick; and persons vie with one another, not who shall have the *finest*, but who shall have the *coolest* house.

'Here are few families who do not keep a coach or chaise. The ladies are never seen to *walk on foot*. However short the journey, the carriage must always be yoked. Even the men, too, make frequent use of their carriages. The expence of servants is likewise considerable. These, both male and female, are negro and mulatto slaves. An inhabitant of Carolina, though not very opulent, rarely has fewer than twenty of these in his stables, in his kitchen, and attendant upon his table. A child has a number of negro children to attend him, and comply with all his humours; so that the little white man learns, even before he can walk, to tyrannize over the blacks.'

'The merchants of Charleston carry on an active trade:—but from the hour of four in the afternoon they rarely think of aught but pleasure and amusement. There are two gaming houses, both constantly full.—Both men and women here soon begin to lose the bloom of youth, and to feel the infirmities of age. At thirty, a woman appears old: you often see women with children at the breast, who yet have all the wrinkles and haggard looks of sixty.'—At Charleston, and (we believe) in every part of the United States, great kindness has been shewn to the French emigrants.

By a computation made in 1790, the state of South Carolina contained 107,100 slaves, and 141,979 white people. The negroes are said to commit fewer criminal offences, in proportion to their numbers, than the white people. Free negroes, from the age of sixteen to fifty, pay a poll-tax of two dollars *per annum* to the state.

South Carolina is divided by nature into two parts, Upper and Lower. Along the coast, and more than one hundred miles westward, the country is flat and level. Here are the swamps, some of which are called the tide swamps, and others the inland swamps.

'Behind them the country swells into hills and rises in progressive gradation, until at length it terminates in the Allegany Mountains, which separate the waters that fall into the Atlantic Ocean from those which discharge themselves into the Mississippi.

'From this natural division of the country, arises a twofold mode of cultivation. In the low country, rice is cultivated, and the necessary corn for the subsistence of the negroes. The land, situated between the swamps, which seems sandy, and bears nothing but pines, might be sown with corn, but it remains uncultivated from want of hands.

'The islands along the coast of South Carolina, and even some tracts of the coast, were, until these late years, entirely devoted to the culture of indigo; but cotton is now cultivated in its room.'

Winter is the most pleasant season at Charleston, but the inhabitants are subject to great and sudden changes in the temperature. In 1751, December 1st, the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer fell from 70 to 24.

'The police of Charleston is extremely deficient in those measures, which should not be wanting in any populous town, situated in so hot a climate. Cleanliness in the streets, as well as houses, is greatly neglected. Offensive smells are very frequent; several burying-grounds are in the midst of the town, and carcases are frequently suffered to lie uninterred. A bird, which in point of plumage and shape is much like a turkey, and is known in the country under the name of *turkey buzzard*, soon devours the carcase, and merely leaves the bones; but the voracity of this bird cannot excuse the indolence

of

of the police. It is very common all over South Carolina, and, in some measure, worshipped by the inhabitants of the town. No law, it is true, has been enacted, which prohibits to kill this bird, but the public opinion, nevertheless, carefully attends to its preservation.'

In manufactures, also, and in science, the inhabitants of South Carolina are represented as very indolent: but Charleston possesses a library and a medical society, and colleges are building.

M. de Liancourt has given a particular account of the methods of clearing and cultivating the Rice-grounds. The produce of the culture of rice, he says, is as variable as that of any other branch of agriculture, and fluctuates from two to four barrels per acre. The barrel weighs 625lbs.—Vegetation is very powerful in this country.

'The luxuriance of the woods stands unrivalled; there are eighteen different species of oak, particularly the live-oak, palmetto or cabbage-tree, cucumber-tree, deciduous cypress, liquidambar, hickory, &c. In short, all the species of trees, which are so excessively dear in Europe, ten of which are bought to save one, for which both situation and soil are carefully selected, and which yet never attain any considerable height, are here the natural produce of the country, and thrive most excellently.'

The bite of the Rattlesnake is more dangerous here than in the Northern provinces:

'The juice of *plantago virginiana, Linn.* or the root and branches of mahuba bruised, are the remedies most commonly applied. Either of these plants is sufficient, but they are deemed more efficacious when they are applied jointly. A tobacco leaf steeped in rum, or a single leaf of one of the above plants, takes off the pain and swelling. Cesar, a negro, discovered this means in South Carolina; he proved its efficacy to the Assembly of the States, in 1780, by causing a rattle-snake to bite him; and obtained for this arcanum his liberty, and a pension of one hundred guineas a year. The rattle-snakes are as peaceful in Carolina, as they are in the north; they never bite but on being touched.'

Georgia is described by the author as the worst regulated province of the Union; the natives being 'a compound of all European countries, and of the other American provinces.' 'Agriculture is much the same as in South Carolina, and almost all the land is good.' The people have frequent disputes with the Indian nations on the borders: among which are the Creeks, 'who, (it is said,) contrary to the general case, are increasing in numbers.' The back settlers of Georgia are here represented as being equally savage with the Indian tribes.

'These Indians (the Cherokees, the Chactaws, and Creeks) cultivate the land with more care than those in the northern states. They keep such negroes as they carry away in their petty wars, or

those who desert to them. They treat them as slaves, but behave well to them; are sparing of them in labour, and share with them their own food. I have been assured, that there are some Indians who have no fewer than thirty negroes; these carry the produce of their husbandry to Pensacola, by which means Georgia is deprived of considerable advantages.

'I have heard an anecdote of one of these Indians, which, I believe, will give a clear idea of their manner of thinking. The Creeks had occasion to assemble some years ago concerning a treaty with the United States: one Talasking, a famous warrior amongst them, who had always declared himself a friend to the United States, opposed every act of hostility against them, and was consequently well known, came to New York, the place of meeting, after the Assembly had already been opened. He there found, that one Malasky, who had distinguished himself by his inveteracy against the United States, and by the mischiefs he had done them, was well treated, and even caressed by the American commissioners. This circumstance raised his indignation to such a degree, that, although he was himself well-treated, he left the Assembly after two days, and became an enemy to the States.'

From Georgia the author returned into South Carolina. He was prevented, by other avocations, from making a tour through North Carolina: but he has drawn up a short history of that state, partly from former accounts, and partly from information communicated to him by an American gentleman, an inhabitant of that country.

In Upper Carolina, the cultivation of Tobacco has much decreased of late years. Its low price, 'and the circumstance that it exhausts the soil, opened the eyes of the cultivators, and induced them to increase the cultivation of grain and cotton.' The Duke has presented us with an account of the exports at both the Carolinas; and of the tonnage of shipping employed at Charleston, from 1792 to 1796: but it appears that an increase of tonnage has not been attended with any augmentation of ship-building at that port. Though they have excellent materials, it is so difficult to procure workmen, and their wages are so high, that the merchants are obliged to purchase ships of the Northern States.

M. de Liancourt went by sea from Charleston to Norfolk in Virginia; of which he gives a character by no means favourable. In the journey to Richmond, the capital of Virginia, the country, the houses, and the cultivation assume a better appearance.—Gaming, says the author, is the ruling passion of the Virginians. Gaming tables are publicly kept at almost every town, though prohibited by laws; which are suffered to sleep, because the 'legislators and magistrates are not among the least assiduous in their attendance at these places.'

Another

Another law exists which is more rigidly enforced, and which interdicts inoculation for the small-pox without permission from the justices, and from all the neighbours within the distance of two miles. 'Any physician who should presume to inoculate without these precautions, would be punished by a fine of ten thousand dollars. Whoever is accidentally attacked by the small-pox is carried to a lonely house in the middle of the woods, and there he receives medical assistance. If the village, the town, the district, to which he belongs, catch the infection, these places are cut off from all communication with the rest of the country, and are permitted to have recourse to inoculation: otherwise it is never allowed.' The Virginians assign many of the old popular reasons for this law: but the author heard that the real motive was the unwillingness of the planters to inoculate their negroes.

The Duke visited a coal mine in the neighbourhood of Richmond, of which he gives the following account:

'In the lowest ground the vein runs one hundred and twenty feet below the surface, and is, in general, twenty-four feet thick. The ground from the surface down to the vein consists of a good red and yellow clay, interspersed with stone, easily reducible to dust. The vein is enveloped in a small layer of imperfect slate, and rests on a bed of granite; a circumstance, which, in the opinion of my friend, Mr. Guillemard, must puzzle all the naturalists of Europe. The coals of this mine, and indeed of all those which have hitherto been opened in this country, are very small, and the most solid pieces which can be obtained crumble into dust at the slightest shock, so that they are more adapted to be used in the forges of smiths, than to be burned in grates. Some veins, it is supposed, contain more solid coals; if this should be the case, the mine would prove far more profitable for the owners: but this supposition remains as yet a matter of mere conjecture.'

Five hundred negroes were employed in working this mine. The owners, 'who are neither chemists nor mechanicians, are content to grope their way without applying for advice to more enlightened men.'—The farmers are not better managers of their land than those of the Northern provinces.

Among the Duke's *pleasantries*, none occur more frequently than those which relate to the little estimation in which, he is pleased to say, our countrymen are held by the Americans; and the great fondness which is every where shewn by them for Frenchmen. The following description seems to have been written *con amore*:

'It was near nine at night when I arrived at Goochland. A party was about to break up: the accounts were settled; every one had already mounted his horse, and nothing prevented their separation but the irresolution and prattle common to drunken people, and

the usual attachment between them when they meet to get intoxicated together. By my manner of talking English to the landlord, the company easily discerned that I was a Frenchman. Immediately they jumped all off their horses, pulled me down from mine, clasped me in their arms, and exclaimed—"You are a Frenchman—well, you are our friend, our dear friend; we would all of us die for every Frenchman; we are good republicans, we would kill all the English; that would be an excellent thing, would not it? Oh, our friend, our dear friend!"—"He is a Frenchman," they said to each other, "the brave dear gentleman is a Frenchman! But as you are a Frenchman, you must drink some grog with us."—They embraced me, pulled me about in every direction, and shook me by the hand.—"Do pray tell us what we can do for you; you are our brother."

This is sufficient for a single dose. In another part of his travels, the Duke relates that he met some people 'whose opinions were just and sensible, and their judgments extremely correct. They hate England!' Here is less in quantity, but compensation is made in the quality.

Continuing his journey to the westward towards the mountains, M. de Liancourt visited the estate of Mr. Jefferson at Monticello. The house, which commands a very extensive prospect, stands on the summit of one of the ridge of mountains called the South Mountains. It is not yet finished, though it was begun before the American Revolution; Mr. Jefferson having since that period been much engaged in public affairs. 'Two years since, he resumed the habits and leisure of private life, and he is now employed in repairing the damage occasioned by the interruption, and continuing his original plan with improvements. The execution, which is already much advanced, will be accomplished before the end of the next year, and then his house will certainly deserve to be ranked with the most pleasant mansions in France and England.' The land which Mr. Jefferson possesses here consists of 5000 acres, of which 1120 only are cultivated.

'The culture of tobacco being now almost entirely relinquished in this part of Virginia, the common rotation begins with wheat, followed by Indian corn, and then again wheat, until the exhausted soil loses every productive power; the field is then abandoned, and the cultivator proceeds to another, which he treats and abandons in the same manner, until he returns to the first, which has in the mean time recovered some of its productive faculties. The disproportion between the quantity of land which belongs to the planters and the hands they can employ in its culture, diminishes the inconveniences of this detestable method. The land, which never receives the least manure, supports a longer or shorter time this alternate cultivation of wheat and Indian corn, according to its nature and situation,

situation, and regains, according to the same circumstances, more or less speedily the power of producing new crops.'—

'Mr. Jefferson has very wisely relinquished this system. He has divided all his land under culture into four farms, and every farm into seven fields of forty acres. Each farm consists, therefore, of two hundred and eighty acres. His system of rotation embraces seven years, and this is the reason why each farm has been divided into seven fields. In the first of these seven years wheat is cultivated; in the second, Indian corn; in the third, pease or potatoes; in the fourth, vetches; in the fifth, wheat; and in the sixth and seventh, clover. Thus each of his fields yields some produce every year, and his rotation of successive culture, while it prepares the soil for the following crop, increases its produce. The abundance of clover, potatoes, peas, &c. will enable him to keep sufficient cattle for manuring his land, which at present receives hardly any dung at all, independently of the great profit which he will in future derive from the sale of his cattle.

'Each farm, under the direction of a particular steward or bailiff, is cultivated by four negroes, four negresses, four oxen, and four horses. The bailiffs, who in general manage their farms separately, assist each other during the harvest, as well as at any other time, when there is any pressing labour.'

Having made a circuitous route, traversing the Blue Mountains and the southern part of Maryland, the Duke arrived at Philadelphia, July 20th, 1796.

After this tour, we have the account of another expedition, into the Northern Provinces; and also of a journey to Washington, or the Federal City, in 1797. A large portion of the Second Volume, however, is occupied by commercial and political information, much of which is compilation; such as the constitution of the Union, the history and constitutions of different Provinces, account of public debts, taxes, laws, and police, &c.

The author's description of Washington City includes a history of its foundation. He entertains the same opinion which some other travellers in America have expressed, i. e. that the plan is on a scale too grand for the present state of the American Provinces; and he reasons on the probability that there may be a separation, or dissolution of the Union, before the country attains a population proportioned to such a capital. Among the inconveniences of the plan, he mentions the great distance of the president's house from the sittings of the congress. 'Here,' says he, 'are two centers at the distance of a mile and a half from each other.'—He does not encourage the expectation that this city will ever arrive at that degree of prosperity, for which the original projectors were sanguine enough to hope. The season of experiment, however,

has now arrived; and the benefits as well as the defects of the plan must soon appear.

Besides much discussion of *general* politics, the author enters largely into *party* disputes. One section is intitled, 'State of parties from the adoption of the constitution to the present period.' It can scarcely be necessary to remark that this is written in the spirit of party.—Among matters of a more general nature, we find an interesting account of the election of Mr. Adams to the office of President of the United States. The ceremonies attending his installation were very few and simple.

In estimating the increase or decrease of trade by the value of exports, it is difficult to make the proper allowances for variations in the prices: especially in the last seven years, during which period there has been a progressive and great increase of price in almost every article of commerce. The quantity of tonnage employed is a more certain standard. The author has in some instances given both: in others, only the former; according, we imagine, to his opportunities of obtaining information. In a table of the exports of the principal articles of the produce of the United States from 1791 to 1796, both years inclusive, (see Vol. II. p. 589.), which table is made up from the totals of the exports of the particular States, the increase appears to be considerable in very few articles. Their foreign commerce and carrying trade have greatly advanced during that time.

Some manufactories are noticed by M. de Liancourt as being in a flourishing state: but he remarks that of many undertakings of this nature, very few prosper. The large capital generally required, the scarcity of good workmen, and the exorbitant wages demanded by them, are difficulties which few have been able to surmount. Speculations in land are carried on to an immense extent; which is not surprizing, while there is so much waste land, and while the population is so rapidly increasing:—but, possessing such a large proportion of unoccupied land, the eagerness with which the Americans of the United States have endeavoured, and yet endeavour, to deprive the Indians of their territory, is scarcely less a subject of wonder than of reproach. M. de Liancourt remarks:

'It is an established opinion in America, even among those who appear the most exempt from prejudices, that the Indians can never be civilized; that the strictest education, the most assiduous and persevering cares, cannot destroy their savage habits, to which they recur with the most ardent passion, from the tranquillity and from the manners of the white people; and an infinite number of examples are cited of Indians who, brought up at Philadelphia, at New York and even in Europe, never ceased to sigh after their tribe, and quitted every

every thing to go and rejoin it whenever a favourable opportunity offered itself.'

Such an opinion rests, perhaps, on too high an estimation of human stability; and general conclusions are not to be drawn from individual instances of failures, in attempts made probably after the habits and affections were rooted. The more general interchanges of communication between the native Americans, and the whites, have been of a nature little calculated to produce impressions favourable to the improvement of their character as a people. Nevertheless, something has been already effected by time and example. Many tribes cultivate the earth, and they all understand and practise trade.

The avidity of becoming rich is attributed by M. de L. to the Americans of the United States, as their general characteristic. In a country in which so many paths lead to affluence, with flattering prospects of success, an industrious people will naturally be eager in the pursuit.

We must not omit to mention, with peculiar approbation, the management of the prisons at Philadelphia; of which M. de Liancourt has given an account both in a former work and in this: but we are restrained from making extracts, by the length to which we have already extended this article.

In conclusion, to give a general character of this publication, we might say that it contains much which is useful, much that is trivial and unnecessary, and much that is improper. The tone of discontent, which runs through the volumes, is such as might have suited the vestal sisters described by Sterne, who were "unsapp'd by caresses; and unbroken-in-upon by tender salutations." M. de Liancourt's ill-humour was proof against kind salutations and caresses. His sarcasms are bitter, without being witty; and his censures are heavy, without the warmth of virtuous indignation. His complainings are little calculated to excite compassion, and his reprehensions will make few proselytes.—We cannot refrain from observing, also, that on some occasions he has treated the subject of religion with levity; and his morality appears, at times, to be of too accommodating a nature.

If any of our readers should think that we have judged some parts of this performance with severity, we desire that they will recollect how deficient the author has been in charity for others; how unfeelingly, and without provocation, he has taken unwarrantable liberties with private characters; and that it is this that has called from us reprehension, which in some instances has been merited in a greater degree than we should deem ourselves justified in bestowing it. The translator, in his preface, speaks of the author's 'great native rectitude and

and benignity of disposition:' yet afterward, praising his diligence, he says, 'he (the Duke) tells us all that he could learn, without being restrained even by considerations of personal delicacy, or the secrecy of honour, from making public several things, which, though acceptable to us, were certainly not intended to be thus proclaimed to all Europe, by those who communicated them to him.' These two accounts ill accord with the same character.

The reader has just reason for complaining of the length of this work, though the useful information which it contains is considerable. The Duke has certainly not been an *idle* traveller; and his agricultural remarks will greatly assist the reader in acquiring correct ideas of the country. If he had been as blameless in his communications as he was diligent in his inquiries, we should have found cause only for commendation.

The translator appears to be well acquainted with the American States; and his notes frequently increase the information, and sometimes correct the errors, of the original. He has also added a map 'drawn from the information contained in the work itself, exhibiting in their proper places many new towns and settlements.'

Capt. B....y

ART. II. *Persian Lyrics*, or scattered Poems from the Divani Hafiz; with Paraphrases in Verse and Prose, a Catalogue of the Gazels as arranged in a Manuscript of the Works of Hafiz, in the Chetham Library at Manchester, and other Illustrations. 4to. pp. 160. 15s. Boards. Harding. 1800.

IT seems at last to be time that the admirers of oriental poetry should favour the public with something new; we mean not catalogues and various readings, but something to justify the gift of those ever blooming wreaths with which they profusely adorn the brows of the eastern bards. The same observations invariably precede each new production in this department of literature; viz. the impossibility of doing justice to the original, and the inaccuracy of oriental manuscripts:—but is the world so incredulous as not to believe what it has been so repeatedly told? Are we so dull as not to conjecture, without being informed, that to transfuse the delicate charms of a fine imagination into a foreign language is a task replete with difficulty; that this difficulty is increased in the ratio of the discrepancy of languages and manners; and that, from a variety of transcribers, a number of errors must gradually insinuate themselves into the text?

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The poet of Shiraz has found in Mr. Hindley, the translator of the present volume, a warm and perhaps a partial admirer. We have perused his Divan; and we bear a willing testimony to the true poetic fire which animates many of his compositions. We believe, also, that, from the five hundred and sixty-nine gazels which constitute that celebrated work, perhaps fifty might be selected, as highly polished as any which could be produced from Anacreon, Horace, or Petrarch. It must, however, be granted that the merit of these odes is extremely unequal; and that in many of them we should search in vain for the beauties so highly extolled by Mr. Hindley: who has surpassed, in the fervor of his encomium, the style usually adopted by translators:

'The plain and simple meaning of one of these gazels,' says Mr. H., '(totally laying aside its isocatalectical and symphonious beauties, as well as the excellence of its peculiar concise and metrical construction,) will always please by mere dint of its simplicity and beauty;—as a faithful and correct representation of natural imagery, and as the poetical outlines of a mind cast in a superior mould, and gifted with the most energetic powers of expression: so truly insinuating, so inimitable, and unique, are the compositions of this illustrious poet. Their variety and peculiarity are not less striking; grave and gay, plaintive and sportive, encomiastic and satirical, tender and querulous, simple and dignified, voluptuous and sublime, they adapt themselves to all dispositions, and seldom fail to take a deep hold of the feelings of the human heart. The metre is regular, though varied; the measures are subject to the common rules of scansion, and run in pauses altogether melodious, and heightened by the agreeable returns of corresponding sounds. The style too, is so effulgent and dazzling, yet so finished and concise, that the loss of the most trivial word is the loss of a beauty.'

In another passage, Mr. Hindley remarks that 'there is no work in Persian literature more deserving the attention of the learned, than this work of Hafiz;' and he supports this assertion by observing that it illustrates, in a considerable degree, the manners of a magnificent and intelligent people at a period highly refined and polished, and that the Divan probably contains some of the least corrupt remains of the pure and antient Persian.—In these exaggerated eulogies we do not feel disposed to concur. The Divan certainly contains some fine poems: but that others may be found, of a different description, will be proved by a reference to the fifth gazel of Mr. Hindley's publication. Still less can we admit that these mystic hymns throw any considerable light on the manners of the age.

The volume before us comprehends eleven gazels, with a verse and a prose translation of each. Eight of these had been previously given to the English public, and three now appear for

for the first time in an European dress. Those which had been translated by Sir William Jones lose a part of their attractions in Mr. Hindley's numbers. We select the first of those that have not hitherto appeared:

'Minstrel, tune some novel lay,
Ever jocund, ever gay,
Call for heart-expanding wine,
Ever sparkling, ever fine.

'Sit remov'd from prying eyes;
Love the game, the fair thy prize;
Toying snatch the furtive bliss,
Eager look and eager kiss;
Fresh and fresh repeat the *freak*,
Often give and often *take*.

'Canst thou feed the hungry soul
Without drinking of the bowl?
Pour out wine; to her 'tis due;
Love commands thee—fill anew;
Drink her health, repeat her name,
Often, often do the same.

'Frantic love more frantic grows,
Love admits of no repose;
Haste, then, youth with silver feet,
Haste, the goblet bring, be fleet;
Fill again the luscious cup
Fresh and fresh, come, fill it up.

'See yon angel of my heart
Forms for me with witching art,
Ornaments of varied taste
Fresh and graceful, fresh and chaste.

'Gentle zephyr, shouldst thou roam,
By my lovely charmer's home,
Whisper to my dearest dear,
Whisper, whisper in her ear,
Tales of Hafiz; which repeat,
Whisper'd soft, and whisper'd sweet;
Whisper tales of love anew,
Whisper'd whispers oft renew.'

In this version, our readers will remark a single couplet amplified into six lines, and in one instance into eight. The game and the prize in the second stanza originate in a misconception of the translator, who has rendered "*labet*," by *game*, while it here signifies *an image*;—and for the repeated whispers of the last stanza, Hafiz is alſo indebted to Mr. Hindley. As the original is among the finest of the Divan, we shall add a translation which can boast no merit but that of being literal, each couplet being invariably rendered by two in English.

Ode

ODE OF HAFIZ.

I.

Songstress, chaunt thy sweetest lay,
Ever charming, ever gay;
Seek the heart-expanding wine,
Ever generous and divine.

II.

With a nymph like idol fair,
To the secret bower repair,
There imprint the ardent kiss,
Yielding nectar, yielding bliss.

III.

Without endless draughts of wine,
Can the fruits of life be thine?
The mem'ry of her charms invite,
With nectar ever pure and bright.

IV.

Cupbearer, with silver feet!
Give the bowl with wine replete.
Again a copious draught be mine,
Ever luscious and divine.

V.

The maid who stole away my heart
Endless pleasures can impart;
Sweetest odour, fairest hue,
Ever charming, ever new.

VI.

Zephyrs! as ye gently move,
By the mansion of my love,
The tale of Hafiz' woes repeat,
Ever new and ever sweet.

In the ninth gazel, we find the following couplet:

'With unborn time the innate fondness rose,
And shall with deathless time expiring close:'

to which passage, the translator has annexed the following note:

'In this gazel, (as well as in gazel 5th, verse 5th,) we find that the antient Persians considered the soul as capable not only of existing separately from the body, but likewise of retaining its love and affection after the dissolution of the human frame. But, as they maintained that all souls, and the elements of all bodies whatsoever, were increate, co-existent, and co-eternal with the Divinity, the immortality of the soul must, of course, have been one of their tenets. We have endeavoured to express their distinct and two-fold notion of eternity, by applying to our word time the epithets unborn and deathless.'

On referring to the original for the two passages here indicated, we find them literally as follows: Gazel 9th, verse 3d. "My heart has from eternity been enchained by thy tresses;

tresses; never shall that chain be broken, nor my vows dissolved."—Gazel 5th, verse 5th. "Though my bones were to decay, still her remembrance would not be obliterated from my heart." From these hyperbolic expressions of the poet, can it be permitted to draw a grave inference respecting the theological tenets of the antient Persians?—but to what antient Persians does Mr. Hindley allude? Hafiz was a zealous Moslem; and there is no question in either passage of the opinions of the Magi:—we are therefore at a loss to apprehend the translator's idea.—The catalogue of gazels, and the various readings, are, we doubt not, very correct: but we should esteem it a strange misapplication of labour to undertake to verify them.

Ham.

ART. III. *A General View of the Agriculture of the North Riding of Yorkshire.* Drawn up for the Consideration of the Board of Agriculture and internal Improvement. By John Tuke, Land-Surveyor. 8vo. pp. 370, and 15 Plates. 7s. 6d. sewed. Nicol. 1800.

THIS Reporter professes that it has been his particular object to adhere to facts, to avoid theory, to detail every circumstance of the agriculture and husbandry of the Riding which was peculiar to it, and to pass over or but slightly notice such circumstances as were common to other districts. He acknowleges his obligations to Mr. Marshall, who was a native of this part of the kingdom, and owns that he has made a free use of that gentleman's *Rural Economy of Yorkshire*, in drawing up the General View before us; which is formed exactly on the plan of preceding county Reports.

It is here stated that the North Riding of the county of York is eighty-three miles long, forty-seven broad, and containing about 2048 $\frac{73}{100}$ square miles, or 1,311,187 acres, of which about 442,565 are uncultivated.

The surface surveyed is divided into six districts, specifying the quantity cultivated and uncultivated:

	Cultivated Acres.	Uncultivated Acres.
'The coast - - - -	64,920	
Cleveland - - - -	70,444	
The Vale of York, with the Howardian Hills, &c. - - -	441,386	15,000
Ryedale, with the East and West Marishes	100,437	3,435
The Eastern Moorlands - - -	102,000	196,625
The Western ditto - - -	90,000	226,940
	869,187	442,000

'Total quantity of the North Riding 1,311,187 acres.'

The

The climate of the *coast* is stated to be cold and bleak;—that of *Cleveland* is subject to a chill and severe atmosphere;—the *Vale of York* is cold near the moors, but in other parts mild and temperate;—in *Ryedale*, it is mild and favourable to the production of crops, but not so healthy as it might be if the land were better drained;—the *Eastern Moorlands*, from their great altitude, are extremely cold and bleak; little corn is sown, and it will not ripen unless in a good situation and aspect;—and the *Western Moorlands* are still colder, from being of still superior altitude, though the circumstance of their being generally calcareous is somewhat in their favour. A note is here added, respecting the height of these hills, and the greatest elevation at which wheat will grow:

'The highest of these hills is about 1444 feet above the level of the tide, an altitude which between latitudes 54° and 55° is greatly above that in which grain of any kind will ripen. I have frequently observed on these hills, that where grain is sown at an elevation of about 600 feet, the crop becomes extremely uncertain; that may be reckoned the greatest height at which wheat will grow, with any chance of repaying the husbandman for his labour, and there the grain will prove very light, and about a month later in ripening than if sown at the foot of the hills; between that and 800 feet may be reckoned the maximum of elevation for any other grain; between 600 and 800 feet, in backward seasons the produce will be little worth, and sometimes not approach maturity; and in other seasons it may be late in October before the ground may be cleared; and frequently before that period, heavy showers of snow will have fallen, and sometimes while the crop may be still standing; such showers the people who inhabit the dales of these Moorlands always expect, and in their expectations are rarely deceived, during harvest.'

The general character of the climate of the North Riding, resembling all the countries bordering on the German Ocean, is said to be that of dryness throughout the year, and of peculiar coldness during the first half of it. No account appears to have been taken of the quantity of rain which falls. A particular description is given of the soil and surface, and of the mineral productions; among the latter, are enumerated inexhaustible beds of alum strata, coal, (but not of the best quality,) iron-stone, veins of copper ore, (but not in abundance,) valuable lead mines, free-stone, slate-stone, lime-stone, various kinds of marble, light red granite, marle, and gypsum.

The section on *Waters* concludes with this remark:

'It is observable, that the Rye, the Rical, Hodge-beck, the Dove, the Seven, and Pickering-beck, are all engulphed during their passage through the narrow range of limestone hills which skirt the southern side of the Eastern Moorlands, and again emerge at

their foot on the northern margin of Ryedale, after having been lost for the space of from half a mile to a mile and a half.'

Estates vary in size from 500*l.* to 18,000*l.* per annum, but of this last amount only a single instance occurs. About one third of the land is possessed by yeomanry, whose farms rarely amount to 150*l.* per annum. It is observed, in favour of this district, that the greatest part of the gentlemen of property reside constantly on their estates, occupy considerable tracts of land, and are skilful in its management; 'the good effects of which,' it is added, 'are every where visible in the improvement of agriculture, in the repair of the roads, in the administration of justice, and in the good order, comfort, and general happiness of the people.' After so flattering an account of the North Riding, we were prepared for reading that it boasted of a great number of gentlemen's seats and comfortable farm-houses, but were surprized at the picture exhibited of the general state of the cottages; and still more that one of the annotators to the Report, who signs himself *Cler Ebor.*, should resist the attempts to improve them.

In the chapter on the *Mode of Occupation*, notice is, as usual, taken of the size of farms; and it is observed that a farm of 200*l.* per annum is, for the most part, in higher cultivation than a farm of 1000*l.* yearly rent; which is thus explained, 'When arable farms are very extensive, some of the fields are too distant to be cultivated to advantage. It is often necessary to have more than one set of buildings upon one farm: this is the same thing as several farms in the occupation of one person, whose attention must be divided.'—Good sense is displayed in this remark.

Mr. Tuke bears the most honourable testimony to the general character of the farmers of this district, as sober, industrious, orderly, liberal in their sentiments, and giving to their children a proper education. 'Fortunately, (he remarks,) this country is purely agricultural; and the inhabitants, solely cultivators of the earth, are endowed with the virtues of their profession, uncontaminated by the neighbourhood or vices of manufactures.'

Relative to the distressing subject of *Poor Rates*, the Report is more favourable for the North Riding than for most other parts of the kingdom, in consequence of the general residence of the principal landed proprietors, and the absence of manufactures; yet even here they have obtained a rapid increase, and are deemed to form an evil which is rolling on with the rapid accumulation of a snow-ball.—Convinced of the existence of a radical error in our system of poor laws, and in the prevailing

ideas respecting their management, we cannot resist the temptation of laying before the reader some facts which may serve to rectify them:

'It is a circumstance deserving of much attention, *that the three market towns in the hundred were much higher rated than any other parish, and that the rate of assessment generally increased in proportion to the size and population of the parish or township; and that the five townships that had never yet levied a poor-rate, were among the smallest in the hundred; and also, that the poor were best attended to, and the least numerous in proportion, in the smallest and least populous townships;* strong arguments these, against uniting great districts in the general maintenance of the poor, under the plea of their being better attended to, and maintained at less expence.'

In a subsequent section, the policy of granting *Leases* is discussed; and some gentlemen, in the notes to this report, have argued strongly in favour of holding occupiers of land *tenants at will*, which is the common practice of the district under survey. Here, indeed, this mode of occupation may not be disadvantageous, either to the landlord or the tenant. The residence of the proprietor being in the vicinity of the tenant, intercourse produces mutual confidence; and a principle is thus formed, which it would be deemed dishonourable for either party to violate, and which may in many respects have the good effect of leases, as well as supersede the necessity of them: but, in countries not so circumstanced, the tenant who holds only from year to year can have no security, and cannot be expected to embark any capital in improvements. We recommend the remarks which are here made, however, to the consideration of our agricultural readers; and we are sorry that our limits will not suffer us to extract them.

The chapter on *Implements* contains accounts of carts, ploughs, drags, harrows, threshing and winnowing machines, griping spades, stubble-rakes, and of the *hay-sweep*;—the last is a simple implement, by which, it is said, hay may be gotten together, when it is to be stacked in the field, in much less time than with a carriage. A view of the plate induces us to doubt the fact.

Though, in general, we find little reason for differing from Mr. Tuke, we cannot accede to his observations on the utility of small inclosures in arable farms. In grazing farms, they may be of use for change of pasture, and for the more commodious separation of stock: but, where corn is to be grown, numerous trees and hedges must be injurious rather than beneficial. Bleak and cold districts may have their climate improved by being judiciously belted with plantations: but, if the land be purely arable, neither the quantity nor the

quality of the grain will be promoted by numerous subdivisions. In certain situations, we grant that fields may be too large; and this discrimination will be made by the intelligent farmer: but, when fields destined for corn crops are necessarily small, there should be as few trees as possible, and the fences (best when of quick) should be kept low.

We must pass over Mr. Tuke's view of the culture and various kinds of *crops* produced in the North Riding, and shall merely notice a peculiarity which he mentions in the mode of making bread from *meslin*, a mixture of wheat and rye:

'Of meslin, the common household or brown bread is made, in families of every rank in the country, and more wholesome and nutritious bread cannot be used; no perceptible flavour or difference arises from the mixture of the rye, and the only effect it has, is to render the bread somewhat more moist, and to preserve it somewhat longer from growing stale; formerly, a very black, heavy, sour bread was made of rye, and is not yet entirely out of date, among the lower orders of the country; it is made in the following manner: a large tub, called a kimlin, is provided; this being only scraped, and not washed out, after each time of using, the paste which remains on the sides becomes sour; in this vessel about one half of the meal intended to be used, is mixed with water in the evening; this is covered up with some dry meal, and lies in sponge till morning; in that time, the tub has communicated its acidity to the whole mass, which causes a fermentation similar to that produced by yeast; it is then worked up stiff with the remainder of the meal; this is often done with the feet, the dough being covered with a coarse cloth; after it has thus been well worked, it is made into large loaves, and put into the oven, where it remains about ten or twelve hours. As this kind of bread will keep a considerable time, it is made in large quantities at once; three bushels at a baking is frequent, which quantity is made into seven or eight loaves: many farmers do not make this bread more than four, or six times in the year.'

This Reporter is of opinion that, as the disease called the *curl* in *Potatoes* is not known in America, whence this valuable root was imported into Europe, it would be wise to have recourse to its native country for a change of seed.

The chapter on *Grass* contains some remarks on hay-making, of which the farmers of the Riding ought to avail themselves.

The wood-lands of this district are estimated at only 25,500 acres, and large full-grown timber is stated to be very scarce.

Of the 442,000 acres reported to be in a state of waste, 228,435 are represented as capable of cultivation, and 213,565 as susceptible of being made productive only by planting. The great expence of obtaining acts for inclosure, and the difficulty of settling with tithe-owners and lords of manors, are enumerated among the obstacles to improvement.

It is remarked, in the chapter on *Live Stock*, that the breed of cattle throughout the North Riding is the short-horned, (called the *Tees-water breed*,) except towards the western extremity, where some small long-horned cattle are to be found. In addition to the descriptions, 5 plates are given, representing a Tees-water bull and heifer; a polled Tees-water cow; a Sussex cow; and a half-bred heifer, between the Sussex and North Riding breeds.

The sheep of the old stock are large, coarse-boned, slow feeders, with dry and harsh wool: but an improvement is introducing. A practice is described, of *salving* sheep with a mixture of tar and butter to prevent the scab, to kill the ticks, to render the sheep more capable of bearing the severities of winter, and to promote the growth of the wool. Others, however, adopt a different process.

Yorkshire, particularly this Riding, having been long celebrated for its *Horses*, we must not wholly omit Mr. Tuke's account of this useful species of animals:

'Horses constitute a considerable part of the stock of the high parts of the Western Moorlands; the farmers there, generally keep a few Scotch galloways, which they put to stallions of the country, and produce an hardy and very strong race, in proportion to their size, which are chiefly sold into the manufacturing part of the West Riding and Lancashire, to be employed in ordinary purposes.'—

'The method practised by the farmers, in making up their two-year old colts for sale in autumn, is to give them good grass, and only take them up about a week before the time of sale, in order to reduce their carcase, improve their coats, and teach them to lead; they are usually sold with their full tails, to dealers, who afterwards make them up more according to art. The first business, is to draw their corner teeth, in order to make three and four-year old horses have the mouths of those of five; they also undergo the operations of docking and nicking; and after having been kept for two or three months on mashes made of bran, ground oats, or boiled corn, they are sold to the London dealers, who, it is said, sell those three or four year old horses as if they were five years old; they are then taken into immediate work, either for the coach or saddle; and in a few months, many of them are completely destroyed by this premature and too severe labour.

'This drawing the teeth, is not a fraud practised upon the London dealers; they know the deception, and insist upon its being done by the country dealers. It is requisite to be done some months before the London dealers finally sell them for use, or the tooth which denotes a horse to be five years old, would not be grown; consequently the deception could not have taken place.

'The horses which are sold for the London market, if for the carriage, are chiefly bay geldings, with but little white on their legs and faces: those which have much white, with chesnut, roan, and other unusually coloured horses and mares, generally do not bear an

equal price in the London market, but with other slight and under-sized horses, are more sought after by foreigners, and eagerly purchased by them for exportation; or are exported by people of this country, who carry them to the foreign markets, and ultimately obtain a price equal to that obtained for those sold at home; by these means, the exportation, contrary to an usually received, but ill-founded opinion, has a strong tendency to reduce the price of those horses which are calculated for the home market; and since as many fillies as colts are naturally bred, and one third of the colts at least, will either have too much white for the home market, or be of some other colour than that which is fashionable at the time, if the breeder had not a market for those, which appear to be two thirds at least of all he unavoidably breeds, he would be compelled to put such a price upon the one third which happened to suit the home market, or variable taste of the moment, as would pay for the other two thirds; which last would either be unsaleable, or fetch very inadequate prices. The consequence naturally flowing from this would be, that the price of horses used at home, would be far greater than at present, when a foreign demand procures to the breeder, nearly as good a price for the horses that would otherwise be useless and unsaleable, as for those which are valued at home.'

The chapter on *Political Economy* includes roads—canals—fairs and markets—commerce—manufactures—and population. On the first of these subjects, several judicious observations are made, for which we cannot find room: but on the last we meet with no satisfactory information that would be worth transcribing.

Mr. Tuke concludes with recommending the removal of all obstacles to agricultural improvement; among which he enumerates—tithes—the non-existence of a general inclosure act—the want of an agreement or understanding between landlord and tenant—a deficiency of farming capitals—monopolies—taxes on salt—the rapid increase of the poor-rates—and undue liberties taken in the pursuit of game.

If we do not subscribe to all of Mr. Tuke's positions, we have not found frequent cause for dissent, but have in general followed him with pleasure through his survey.—A map of the Riding, and other plates, are given with this work. Mon.

ART. IV. *Letters from the Rev. Mr. Job Orton, and the Rev. Sir James Stonhouse, Bart. M. D.* to the Rev. Thomas Stedman, M. A. Vicar of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. sm. 8vo. 2 Vols. 9s. Boards. Longman and Rees, &c. 1800.

POPE says,

"*Unthought of frailties cheat us in the wise;*"

and Warton, in his commentary on this line, (see his Essay on the writings and genius of Pope, vol. ii. p. 186) endeavours to confirm

confirm the truth of the poet's assertion, by relating "that LOCKE was fond of romances; that NEWTON once studied astrology; that Dr. CLARKE valued himself on his agility, and frequently amused himself in a private room of his house in leaping over tables and chairs; that POPE was an epicure, and, though accustomed to lie whole days in bed on account of his head-achs, would at any time rise with alacrity, if a dish of stewed lampreys was announced for dinner; and that the Duke of MARLBOROUGH, on the evening of an important battle, was heard chiding his servant for having been so extravagant as to light four candles in his tent, when Prince Eugene came to confer with him." Indeed, persons who are celebrated for valour, talents, wisdom, or virtue, too often betray weaknesses which remind us that they are still but imperfect mortals; and, as it has been remarked that "no General is a hero before his valet de chambre," so it has been thought that no one is uniformly reverenced as a saint by his domestics and intimate friends, whatever impressions the exemplariness of his deportment, conversation, and writings, may make on the world at large. Hence a general wish obtains, of lifting up the veil which conceals from our view the retired life of men who are eminent for their wisdom and piety; and of contemplating them in the privacies of the closet, and in the familiar, unrestrained intercourse of friendship. We are desirous of seeing how far the public exhortations, delivered by the preacher, influence his own conduct; and in what degree the religion, which he recommends to others, elevates, purifies, and expands his own heart. Happy is it when the curtain can be drawn back with advantage to the objects disclosed;—when the private lives of divines are found to correspond with the doctrines which they inculcate, and can be adduced as proofs of the genuineness of their convictions, and the wisdom of their choice.

Exhibitions of this rare and truly gratifying kind are presented in the volumes before us. Of the late Mr. Job Orton, it is impossible to speak without extreme veneration; and Dr. (afterward Sir James) Stonhouse was a sincere, zealous, and faithful divine. We have great pleasure in paying a tribute of respect to the memory of such men; we thank the editor for the valuable addition of the letters of Dr. S. to those of Mr. Orton formerly given to the public *; and we recommend them to the serious perusal of the clergy of every denomination.

* The first edition of the Letters from Mr. Orton to Mr. Stedman was published some years ago, and noticed in our Review for August, 1791; vol. v. N. S. p. 471.

Yet we do not think that these Christian ministers, with all their goodness of heart and intention, form exact models of imitation; nor can we entirely approve all their sentiments. Mr. Orton had his little peculiarities, and seemed to pride himself in them; and Dr. Stonhouse sometimes discovers a mind fettered by system, and condemns too harshly those opinions which are inconsistent with his own. Both these gentlemen abound also in that excessive *self-degradation*, which does not well accord with a consciousness of virtue, and a purity of intention in the sight of God; and they perhaps pourtray religion with a rigor and formality which neither the example nor the precepts of Christ will completely justify. We perceive, however, unequivocal proofs that they acted on principle, and derived high pleasure and satisfaction from the exercises of piety and Christian benevolence. We are sorry, therefore, when we find that, under the infirmities of nature, as life drew to a conclusion, their religious faith was not always sufficient to conquer the fear of death, and to dissipate all doubts respecting eternity. (See vol. ii. p. 396, and other places.)

The correspondence here published unfolds the sentiments and practice of two divines of opposite persuasions, one belonging to the Establishment, and the other to the Church of Protestant Dissenters; and it may serve to repress all acrimonious contention regarding speculative articles, by demonstrating that the essence of true religion is the same in all communions. Though these good men were of a very serious turn of mind, which displayed itself in their writings, in their discourses, and even in their private letters, they were not enthusiasts, and are not to be classed with those who are denominated Methodists. As Mr. Orton objects (see vol. i. p. 245) to the expression, "*guilty by nature*," which is by some deemed orthodox, since, as he observes, 'guilt is a consciousness of having acted wrong;' so Dr. Stonhouse, wishing to promote correct ideas, and to avoid mistakes, disapproves (see vol. ii. p. 56) a frequent use of the *figurative* language of Scripture, such as the term *new birth*, &c., very judiciously observing that 'the *high eastern* figures do not suit *our* climate, how proper soever in the connection they stand, where the Holy Spirit of God has placed them.'

These letters recommend early rising to young ministers, and are throughout calculated to impress on their minds the importance and high responsibility of their profession. The habits of the writers, in retirement, are displayed; and we observe the manner in which they filled up their time, and the methods which they employed to excite themselves to diligence. We find that they kept Diaries; and Dr. S. tells us that he had

what

what he called a *Burning Drawer*, with a large *B* on it, into which he threw all letters and papers *which were to be burnt, without their being read, by his executors at his death.* This is a hint worth recording.—Among the opinions of Dr. S. we were pleased to find him condemning the *voluntaries* which are played in churches that have organs, immediately after the alternate reading of the Psalms. We much approve, also, his remarks in vol. ii. p. 372, 3, on that *indolent and inconsiderate giving of money* which is generally mistaken for charity: 'I don't like, (says he,) giving *money* to the poor, as they lay it out improperly, or to disadvantage: therefore when we pray to be the *instruments* of good to others, or a *blessing* to them, let us be really so, by giving them shoes, stockings, gowns, linen, &c.; by coals or bread; by paying their house-rent; by giving, lending, or recommending books, such as bibles, common prayer books, spelling books, &c.; by putting children to school, and teaching them to write; by talking with children or servants; by seasonable advice; by serious sentences *occasionally* in letters; by religious conversation, when it can be introduced, with prayer; by visiting the sick, or sending them a dinner; by paying their apothecary for his attendance and medicines; &c.'

The nature and manner of these letters being peculiar, many local and temporary circumstances occurring, and frequent quotations being introduced, it is not easy to select parts which will be generally acceptable, and fairly illustrative as specimens. We shall, however, extract one or two passages.

Dr. Stonhouse was a very *popular* preacher; his manner in the pulpit being graceful and impressive, and his style of *reading* the church service being peculiarly correct and pleasing:—we speak from personal knowlege. In a letter dated March 17, 1772, he thus remarks on the nature of pulpit-popularity in general, and on his own experience in particular;

'You say popularity is a great snare. I have *found* it so; especially the two or three first years after I commenced preacher. I can now *almost* say *in reality*, what Pope only *affected* to say,

"Now sick alike of envy and applause."

———

"Blest rules of cool prudential age!"

says Dr. Cotton. I have now many thoughts in the pulpit to damp ambition, and the thirst of popular applause. I am failing in my memory, my voice is tremulous, my spirits flag, &c. I have also seen *such changes* in my hearers. How many of my admirers have forsaken me! How often have my most undeserving productions been *extolled*, and my most judicious performances passed *unnoticed!* How few are *judges!* How little good has been done by those discourses I have taken so much pains with, and from which I promised

myself so much! I *once* went into the pulpit sanguine with hope; I *now* go up as an *act of duty* in the sight of God, and because my friends advise me to preach. You must keep a tight rein over yourself, and consider ministers are only instruments, and the blessing is God's. A proper emulation is laudable. Popularity becomes a snare, when we grow proud, conceited, and behave accordingly, attributing all *to self*, unmindful of the grace and blessing of God; and regarding *our own* reputation only, without being desirous of his glory, and the salvation of our fellow-creatures.'

The following passages afford some farther insight into the worthy Doctor's character, and offer good advice to the divine:

'I *fear* Mr. * * will employ his time and zeal in preaching *doctrines*, *tenets*, *words*, and *phrases*, and not *solid*, *consistent* christianity; not the catechism properly explained, and scripture rationally expounded; but a bigotted, narrow system, unintelligible and unprofitable. This I know is called religion; and others who are much wiser and better than themselves, are treated, as having *no* religion *at all*, though, at the same time, all *worldly* men say they have *too much*, are righteous over much, as has often been said of *me* and *others*.—I preached in the Abbey at *Bath* not long ago, where was a young cl———n, who behaved extremely indecent, shewing all imaginable signs of contempt of the preacher. But did this affect *me*? Not in *the least*. As Pope said, when he was abused,

"I wished the man a dinner, and sat still."

Pope knew he could write verses, though *silly* poets abused him. I knew my sermon to be solid, and written in no contemptible style. I therefore looked on the *young man* as a silly being, not worth my anger, tho' an object of my pity. Another clergyman went into ——shire, and not knowing I was acquainted with the family he was visiting, and that a lady there was one of my intimate friends, began abusing *my doctrine*. But the lady soon silenced him. So you see, I go through much *evil report*. But these things do not *move* me. I am going *out* of the world, and am sorry to leave it so wicked, and to see those who should reclaim it, so little likely to do it.

Tu ne *cede* malis, sed contrà *audentior* ito,

is my maxim. If this be to be vile, says *David*, I will be viler still. (2 *Sam* vi. 22.)

'When I am dead and gone, you will probably think of some things I have said to you, which may now seem of little importance. I have often said, and I again repeat it, "We are to do *our duty*." No matter whether this person or that sneers at either *you* or *me*. It is *my duty* (as minister of *Little-Cheverel*) to supply my parishioners with proper *prayers* for their use *. It is *your duty* to preach to them *faithfully*, as *my* assistant, and as *God*'s minister, which you have always done.—*Expect* no thanks from parents for teaching their

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'* He had at this time sent a number of his Book of "Prayers for the use of private persons, families, children, and servants," (price 4d.) to be distributed among his parishioners.'

children

children their catechism. The single question I ask my heart is—"What is it *my duty* to do?" I answer—"to catechise." I am got *quite indifferent* about *thanks, gratitude,* or *popular applause.* I give myself little concern, whether I have eighteen or eighteen hundred hearers (except for *their* sakes). I am to do my *duty,* as rector of *Cheverel,* and lecturer of *All Saints* in *Bristol.* At the day of judgment, it will *not* be asked, "What *number* of hearers had you?" But "were you *faithful?*" "Did you do *your duty?*" I see so little *good* done, and mankind are *so indifferent* about the concerns of religion, and so keen after pleasure and profit, that I am ready to *despair* of doing good. Yet it is *my duty* to exert myself; and I *do* it, and *will* do it. Act on this principle, and set your mind at ease. Nay, it is the *only* principle, which *can* give ease and *true* content. I conclude the subject with this *one* admonition. "Use eagle-eyed prudence, and heart-breaking perseverance." This was my rule as a physician, and shall be so as a divine.'

One of Dr. Stonhouse's letters (xxxvi.) contains some account of himself and family, to which we must refer the inquisitive reader for particulars. He was born on the 9th of July (20th new style) 1716; he set out in life by practising physic at Northampton; imbibed notions of religious scepticism; was converted; afterward took orders, and had the livings of Great and Little Cheverel, in Wiltshire; was twice married; towards the conclusion of life, the title of Baronet devolved to him by the death of a relation; and he himself died at Bristol-Wells, Dec. 8, 1795, in the 80th year of his age, and was buried in the same grave with his last wife in the *Wells* chapel; over which, on an elegant monument, is an epitaph written by Mrs. Hannah More.

The public are obliged to Mr. Stedman for these Letters, and for the judicious notes with which he has enriched them. To be known to be esteemed by such men as Orton and Stonhouse is great praise.

Mooy.

Art. V. *Communications respecting the External and Internal Use of Nitrous Acid;* demonstrating its Efficacy in every Form of Venereal Disease, and extending its Use to other Complaints: With original Facts, and a preliminary Discourse, by the Editor, Thomas Beddoes, M. D. 8vo. pp. 125. 4s. sewed. Johnson. 1800.

We are here presented with testimonials, from several respectable medical men, to the efficacy of immersion in a mixture of nitrous acid with water, in venereal affections; and farther evidence of the internal action of the acid on the constitution, in similar diseases, is also produced.

The detail of facts is prefaced by Dr. Beddoes with some general observations; which evince, as usual, much acuteness, mingled with considerable severity against his opponents. We regret that any undue degree of warmth should have been admitted

admitted into a work of this kind, because we never perused a book in which it could be less excusable. The methods of cure pointed out, for the relief of a most formidable disease, are so simple, so incapable of doing mischief, and so manageable by every person of common sense, that, if the results of the cases reported in this volume be verified by general observers, it will be impossible to prevent the application of the nitrous bath, and the nitrous acid, from taking place in preference to the use of mercury, by any exertions of influence or artifice. If, on the other hand, the cure of venereal complaints should still be intrusted to mercury by the faculty, we shall be more disposed to question the merits of the new remedies, than to impeach the candour and integrity of the great body of medical practitioners in this country.—In stating this alternative, we do not mean to detract from the characters of the gentlemen who have recommended the acids as anti-syphilitics. Those who are conversant with the arduous task of observation must be aware, that the most upright and intelligent of mankind may be occasionally misled; and it would conduce greatly towards settling the contested points before us, if all parties would proceed on the plain maxim, that a mere difference in opinion does not imply a moral wrong on the part of any individual.—To these considerations, we would beg leave to add that, when the decision of a disputed point becomes an object of personal importance to any medical writer, however distinguished, he must expect his facts and arguments to be weighed with additional caution by the profession at large. Practitioners will always feel that the welfare of their patients, and the security of their own reputation, are objects of greater concern than the fleeting triumphs of medical polemics. We shall therefore now proceed to give an account of the facts stated in this collection, leaving the merits of the question to that decision which it must soon receive from the united experience of the profession.

In the introduction, Dr. Beddoes gives an account of several cases in which he produced soreness of the gums, ptyalism, brassy taste in the mouth, and even a fœtor in the breath, (similar to that which is occasioned by mercury,) by the use of the acidulated bath alone. 'The strength of the bath,' it is added in one case, 'was from 12 to 24 ounce measures of sulphuric acid of commerce to about 80 gallons of water.'—This remarkable and unexpected fact does not, however, as Dr. Beddoes observes, prove an identity of action between mercurials and acids:

'It is respectably attested that the sulphuric and nitrous acids are very efficient in counteracting troublesome symptoms, when mercury

mercury too powerfully affects the mouth (they also cure ulcers left by mercury). Some difference, therefore, must necessarily exist in the action of these substances on the mouth, (unless we should ascribe the alledged effects to the local operation of the acids); and it may frequently be observed of similar substances, applied to the living body, that they have some consequences in common, and others not so.'

Dr. Beddoes adds a case of dysentery of two years' standing, in which the external and internal use of a mineral acid effected a cure. In this instance, also, soreness of the mouth was produced.

The evidence from the East Indies commences with a letter from Mr. M'Gregor, surgeon to the 88th regiment; in which he asserts the permanency of the cures produced by nitric acid, and mentions the efficacy of the acidulated bath, in producing soreness of the gums.—This paper is followed by a number of cases, given by Mr. Scott, which shew that the cures performed by the acid have been permanent during a period of seven years.

In the preliminary observations respecting the cases communicated by Dr. Keir, of Bombay, that gentleman introduces the following notice:

'In this climate, I have observed the disease very generally more active, and its progress more rapid towards the secondary stages, than in Europe; and the use of mercury, in any form, uncommonly disagreeable and unpleasant to the natives; the diluted acid, on the contrary, from the frequent desire for diluents, becomes a convenient and an agreeable medicine, and unless in a few cases, where from some peculiarity of constitution the acid excited nausea, I have of late, in my hospital, found the natives give it the preference; to these reasons we may probably attribute the greater degree of success that appears to result from the use of the acid in India, than in cold climates.'

Dr. Keir concludes, from his experience in several cases, that the acid is capable of effecting a permanent cure, in recent syphilitic affections. The mouth was sometimes made sore by it in his patients.

Mr. Steuart, of Bombay, gives an account of seventeen cases of venereal disorders treated with the acid; in some of them, it was taken internally; in others, the bath alone was used. His general statement of the result is thus given:

'Wherever I have used the nitric acid, it has almost uniformly improved the general health, even in the most obstinate cases of confirmed lues, where the constitution has been almost destroyed by disease, and repeated courses of mercury, and where it has failed to produce a cure. I have not found that the acid uniformly inflames the gums, and produces a flow of saliva; but I have often found it do both, whether applied to the skin, or taken into the stomach. The effects

effects of bathing have been in every respect similar to those produced from drinking the acid; and in the two recent cases, when the feet and legs only were bathed, the cure proceeded as rapidly as it generally does, either under the use of mercury, or the internal use of the acid, and certainly more agreeably.

'To conclude: In all the cases of recent infection, in which I have trusted entirely to the use of nitric acid, whether externally or internally applied, I have not as yet met with one instance of relapse; and, in secondary cases, where I have given it what I consider a fair trial, and failed ultimately, I do not now recollect one in which a permanent cure has been established by any other means.'

Six cases are stated by Mr. Boag, in which the acidulated bath was employed with effect: the gums were made sore in some of these instances.—Several other medical gentlemen add their testimony to the same purport, in a summary manner. —These facts have already been laid before the public by Dr. Beddoes: but we now come to a new and interesting part of the publication; a particular relation of the effects of the acid bath, as observed by Dr. Scott in his own person. We shall extract some passages:

'April 27th, 1798.—I bathed to-day in a wooden tub, which contained water acidulated with nitric acid. The bath was made about the temperature of the skin. The whole surface, as high as the neck, was covered, and I remained in it for half an hour. I feel no particular effect from this bath. It is as agreeable as water, and it cleans the skin much more effectually.

28th.—I bathed again to-day. I took out a part of the bath, and then added to it hot water and nitric acid. It was above the temperature of my body, and as strongly acid as the skin could well bear it. I staid in the bath half an hour, and feel no particular effect from it.

'29th.—Just after I had written the report of yesterday, and in less than an hour after I had come out of the bath, I felt, very unexpectedly, some pain in my gums, and I thought that I was inclined to spit more than usual. I was disposed to attribute this to the effects of imagination. To-day I put into the bath, as before, some more acid with hot water. The bath was rather below the temperature of the skin. The pain in my gums, teeth, and jaws, was very sensible during the remainder of this day; and at times there is a secretion of saliva to an uncommon degree.

'30th.—I prepared my bath as before. It was rather warmer than the body; I remained in it for half an hour. I feel, since yesterday, a pain in my throat, which is attended with some difficulty of swallowing. I have an unusual disposition to spit; my gums, both above and below, are somewhat painful; I am otherwise in good health.

'May 1st.—Since yesterday I have felt a good deal of pain in the throat, especially on swallowing; and during the whole of this forenoon I had a sensation of burning over the roof of my mouth, and down

down the œsophagus. This sensation resembles what arises from having chewed an acrid vegetable substance, and is so disagreeable, that if it be not diminished, I shall use the bath no more after this day. I remained to-day in the bath for half an hour: it was so strong as to make my skin smart in many parts.

2d.—My mouth, though not ulcerated, is painful. I am sufficiently satisfied of the powers of this bath, and shall use it no longer. I find my digestion much improved from it, and I am sensible that the liver, unclogged by disease, is performing its functions with uncommon facility.

'It should be observed, that during the days that I bathed, the thermometer in the day-time was commonly from 92 to 96 in the shade, and that I had on my skin a good deal of that excoriation (for it is not an eruption) that we call the prickly heat. This, no doubt, by removing the protection of the cuticle, has made the action of the bath much more rapid than it would otherwise have been.

'June 6th.—For a fortnight after giving over the bath, my mouth continued sore, and the ptyalism at times was considerable. My pulse, which should not have been more than 85 in a minute, was generally as high as 96, and often above 100. I felt at times an unusual languor, and I got considerably thinner. There was an uncommon degree of sensibility about me. I am inclined to attribute several of those effects, in some measure, to the great heat of the weather. At the end of this time I took an opiate for a few nights, when the spitting went away, and my pulse returned to its ordinary state.'

This detail is followed by an account of the exhibition of the acid in several of the country diseases. In the endemic fever, in puerperal fever, (which, Dr. Scott thinks, is chiefly dependent on diseases of the liver at Bombay,) in hepatitis,—acute and chronic,—in dysentery, in ascites, and in asthma, Dr. S. has found it serviceable.

Respecting syphilis, the writer says:

'The result of our experience of late seems to be, that by the bath, or by combining the internal use of the acid with its external application, we succeed in hopeless cases where mercury had failed; in other instances, however, of a similar nature, I have failed by the acid. When the bones are highly diseased, a long time is required to restore them to health, even after the poison of syphilis is neutralized. I think I have observed in some instances, that the immediate relief from pain is not so decided from the acid as from mercury, even where its permanently good effects have been far more considerable.

'In recent cases of syphilis we have been much more successful; I am hardly able in truth to record but very few instances of failure. Some cases have been more troublesome and more tedious than others, but they have given way in the end.

'With respect to the permanency of the cures by the acid, we have reason to think that at least they are not less so than those from mercury; but I make it a practice, even in the recent disease, to

affect

affect the mouth by it, or to produce some very evident affection of the system.'

In a case of elephantiasis, the acid bath was of great use.

Several additional cases of the *Ven. Dis.* then follow, transmitted by Mr. M'Gregor, in which success attended the use of the acid.

In a letter from Mr. Hammick, that gentleman says:

'I have never received back any one patient whom I discharged as cured by these agents; notwithstanding the ingenious Dr. Trotter, physician to the fleet, in the second volume of his Medicina Nautica*, page 140, mentions, that two or three of my cases had relapsed, and had been reported to him in the fleet; but, after the most diligent enquiry, and strictest scrutiny, I am disposed strongly to believe, that, on this point, the Doctor was misinformed, as the two surgeons to whom he referred me for information on the subject, declared they knew of no such event.'

Mr. Griffith, surgeon of the Suffolk man of war, attests the efficacy of the acid in sea-scurvy; which is confirmed by Mr. Macleod, surgeon of La Forte. Several cases are also stated by Mr. Deane, surgeon to the 86th regiment, in which the acid, internally given, proved a remedy for dysentery.

Such is the general outline of this performance; which will certainly attract considerable attention, and excite inquiring men to an immediate investigation of the powers of the proposed remedies.

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ART. VI. *Graphic Illustrations of Hogarth*, from Pictures and Drawings in the Possession of Samuel Ireland, Author of this Work; of a Picturesque Tour through Holland, Brabant, &c. &c. Vol. II. Large 8vo. pp. 170. 2l. 2s. Boards. Egerton, &c. 1799.

IN our account of the first volume of this work †, we observed that Hogarth's reputation for invention and original genius depended on those of his productions which were most generally circulated, and most easily procured; and that his fame had experienced but an inconsiderable accession by the publication of his earlier and rarer performances:—productions which he himself never attempted to rescue from that oblivion to which their want of merit had consigned them. In these sentiments we are confirmed by the contents of the present volume; yet it is but justice to Mr. Ireland to acknowlege that we have derived entertainment from his communications; and we shall now inform our readers what they may expect from a perusal of his work.

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* See M. Rev. vol. xxxii. N. S. p. 250. † Ib. N. S. vol. xvii. p. 196.

Mr.

Mr. Ireland remarks in his preface:

'The volume now presented to the world, comes with a stronger claim to attention than the former, as the subjects are chiefly selected from original pictures and drawings, that have never yet been engraved, and have been executed by, or under the superintendance of artists eminent in their profession.

'The originals from which these prints have been engraved, are, with onlv three exceptions, in the possession of the author, who will feel himself highly gratified in shewing them to any gentleman who may be desirous of inspecting them.

'To the politeness of Mrs. Garrick, and that of Abraham Langford, Esq. of Highgate, he is indebted for the temporary use of the three pictures above alluded to, which are inserted in this volume.

'On some of the subjects here introduced, the editor has been able to procure but little information, although he has not failed to avail himself of every opportunity to obtain it.

'The length of time since many of the pictures were painted, and the locality of some of the subjects, have rendered all his enquiries unavailing.

'If therefore he has not been able to furnish descriptions adequate to the nature of the subjects, or if he has in a few instances supplied by conjecture, what should have been founded upon real information, he flatters himself that even the attempt to elucidate any part of Hogarth's works, and the difficulties attending it, will, with the candid reader, plead his apology.

'The author has not introduced into this volume any designs of the artist, but what on the highest authority he is enabled to say, are genuine productions, and he therefore flatters himself that they will be considered as a valuable addition to the works of Hogarth already laid before the public.'

Notwithstanding this intimation, we cannot refrain from doubting the genuineness of several of the productions here represented. Mr. Ireland should have made his readers acquainted with the authority on which he formed his opinion, and should not have expected the public to repose unlimited confidence in his assertions. If all the designs contained in this volume proceeded from the pencil of Hogarth, we have no hesitation in declaring that several of them are unworthy of his genius, and differ from any undoubted production of his pencil that we have seen.

The number of plates here introduced is forty-nine, of various subjects, and of very unequal merits, whether we consider the designs or the engravings. The first print is a portrait of this incomparable artist from a bust by Roubilliac, exhibiting a countenance full of humour and animation. The following is Mr. Ireland's account of this plate:

'The annexed engraving is taken from a very valuable bust in terra cota, which the unrivalled skill of his friend Roubilliac had modelled

delled from the life. It was sold amongst the effects of Mr. Hogarth's widow, at her house in Leicester Fields, and came into my possession at the death of Mr. John Hunter, who had purchased it at her sale. They, who are conversant with the specimens of this art, will immediately recognize the excellence of this effort of Roubilliac's hand. There is an expression in the countenance which conveys a most infallible intimation of its prominent and distinguishing character; and in which it is impossible not to trace almost every feature in the mind of the person whom it represents. It requires but little penetration, to discover a sort of satyrical conformation in the whole of the face. It exhibits a more than ordinary portion of sagacity; and a species of sharp and quick-sighted penetration, as it were in the very act of exploring those vices, and hunting out those follies, which in so many fanciful combinations were the perpetual objects of his researches.

'This great effort of genius, however, met with a very slender compensation. The whole amount of the recompense received by the artist, being no more than fifteen guineas.

'I have introduced, beneath the bust, the figure of Hogarth's dog Trump, modelled by the same artist. It had been jocularly observed by him, that there was a close resemblance betwixt his own countenance and that of this favourite dog, who was his faithful friend, and companion for many years, and for whom he had conceived a greater share of attachment than is usually bestowed on these domestic animals. I make no apology for the introduction of his portrait to the notice of the reader, because the attentions, of which the master thought him worthy, have in a manner (if I may be allowed to say so much concerning a dog) conferred a sort of dignity upon his memory.

'It is a fact very well known, that Hogarth has frequently exhibited his portrait in his works. One of the prints, into which he has introduced both himself and his dog, is a very remarkable one, and at this time is become very scarce, most probably from the circumstance of his having erased his own head for the purpose of inserting that of the canonical bear, during the celebrated controversy betwixt our artist and Churchill.'

Then follow three portraits; one of Mrs. Hogarth, another of Lady Thornhill her mother, and the third of her brother Mr. James Thornhill, which in features and expression much resembles that of his father Sir James. These are pleasing delineations, and that of Mrs. Hogarth is a strong resemblance.—We are next presented with seven prints from Hogarth's drawings on the subject of Hudibras, and which Mr. Ireland continues to think, (notwithstanding Lord Orford has expressed a different opinion,) the artist 'never excelled at any future period of his life.' He proceeds to observe:

'It is with regret I mention that I am not enabled to lay before the world the complete set of original drawings for this undertaking. After several years' research among the cabinets of this, as well as other countries, I have been enabled to obtain only seven, two others

I have

I have seen, but the owner, I am concerned to say is unwilling to have them copied, or in any way to lay them before the public. The remaining three I fear are irretrievably lost. Incomplete however as they are, I flatter myself that in gratifying my own feelings, I am doing justice to the artist in laying before the reader, fac similies of this treasure, that might otherwise, by various contingencies, in the course of time, have been totally with-held from the public eye.'

That our readers may be enabled to judge of the manner in which this work is executed, we shall transcribe the writer's account of a landscape which he attributes (we know not on what authority) to the pencil of Hogarth:

'ROSAMOND'S POND.—This view is taken from a well-painted picture in oil by our artist, and is, I believe, except a landscape I purchased of the late Mrs. Hogarth, and which I have already laid before the public, the only one produced from his pencil.

'It is evident that the model which Hogarth imitated in this branch of the art, was Wotton, a landscape painter of considerable merit in the early part of this century, but whose great fault was a want of discrimination and character in the leafings of his trees, that generally produced a sombrous and gloomy tint, very unpleasing in its effect. In the view before us, however, the scene is well selected. The abbey towers break upon the eye in a very pleasing manner, and the trees are very pleasingly massed. The figures bear very strong and characteristic indications of the artist's humor, and what renders them peculiarly interesting is, that they are memorials of the costume of the times, in which the personages represented in the picture lived.

'The spot where Rosamond's Pond stood, was at the south-west corner of St. James's Park; and it was not filled up till within the last thirty years.

'It appears that our laughter-loving monarch Charles the second had formed a more than common attachment to this spot. He planted an avenue of trees, and built an aviary near it, and from the circumstance of the bird-cages having been suspended on the branches of the trees, the present name which it bears, that of the Bird-cage Walk, was derived. Cibber in his apology for his life, says, "that he has often seen that merry Monarch in the act of feeding his ducks in this pond, and playing with his dogs amidst crouds of spectators; diversions with which the king was peculiarly gratified;" and which he adds "made the common people adore him, and consequently overlook in him, what in a prince of a different temper, they might have been out of humor at."

'It is a curious fact that Charles conferred on Rosamond's Pond, or Duck Island, as it was called, an extraordinary dignity, by erecting it into a government, of which the celebrated M. de St. Evremond was appointed governor, with a considerable salary annexed to the office.

'This retreat was at that period equally celebrated for those assignations of gallantry, to which in large and populous towns, retired spots are so very favorable, as well as for its having been resorted to as the last refuge of despairing lovers, who found in the friendly

waters of this pond an asylum from the afflictions that haunted them. It should seem, that it was frequently used for the latter purposes, from a passage in the Country Wife of Wycherly, where Belville and Moody are alluding to this subject:

Belville. Shall I shew the young gentleman Rosamond's Pond?

Moody. You may visit Rosamond's Pond, Sir, if you will, and the bottom of Rosamond's Pond.'

In the miscellaneous articles introduced into this volume, we observe two portraits which are sketched with great spirit, and which we can easily conceive to be strong and faithful likenesses; the one respecting John Dennis the Critic, who attacked the Tragedy of Cato with so much acuteness and asperity; the other delineating Hippesley, the Comedian, in the character of Sir Francis Gripe in Mrs. Centlivre's play of *the Busy Body.* In the account of Mr. Dennis, we find this amusing anecdote:

'Among the various peculiarities of this singular character, he professed to have entertained a most insurmountable antipathy to punning. Nay, so hostile was he to this species of wit, that he has been known to quit the company where puns have been made. There is an anecdote not generally known, which tends further to illustrate his most eccentric character. One night at Button's, Steele was desirous of excluding him from a party which he wished to make, but which he could not conveniently manage, Dennis being at that time in the coffee-room. While he was at a loss to get rid of him, he observed Rowe sitting on the opposite side of the box to Dennis, the latter of whom he asked, "What was the matter with him?" What do you mean by the question? replied the critic. To which the other replied, "you appeared to me like an angry waterman, for you look one way and Rowe another." The effect of this pun was successful; and the critic left the room, execrating all puns and punsters. We are indebted to Dennis for the useful dramatic imitation of Thunder, so successfully practised on our stage. He introduced it into his Tragedy of Appius and Virginia, a play founded on the beautiful narration of Livy, but which met with a very cold reception. A few nights after the demise of his piece, he happened to be in the Pit at the representation of Macbeth: and on hearing the thunder, he is said to have exclaimed, in a phrensy of indignation, "That is my Thunder! how these rascals use me. They will not let my play run, and yet they steal my Thunder!"

The following anecdote of Mr. Garrick is introduced; and our own knowlege of his great powers of mimickry induces us to credit the relation:

'A servant was sent with an invitation from a lady of fashion to Garrick, one evening, when he was dressed for the part of Abel Drugger. Garrick desired him, in the voice and manner of the character he was about to personate, to leave the card. The mimickry was so consummately executed, that the servant refused to leave the message,

message, as he was sure that it was not Mr. Garrick, whom he had often seen, and with whose person he was well acquainted.

'The story being related by Garrick to Dr. Hawkesworth, the latter gentleman seemed entirely to discredit it, alledging that such a deception was altogether impossible. The Actor immediately laid a wager with the Doctor, that he would practise with success the same piece of humour with him. Accordingly, not long after this conversation, he habited himself in the character of the Farmer, in his Interlude of that title, and put up his horse at a public house on the Hampton road, not long before Hawkesworth passed, on the way to Garrick's house. When the Doctor was gone by, he mounted and overtook him. In the course of their conversation, the Farmer enquired to what house he was going; to which the Doctor answered, to Mr. Garrick's! I know him well, replied his companion, for he is my landlord, and I am going in a day or two to pay him my rent. They parted, and Garrick having changed his dress, received his friend, who was entirely ignorant of the deception. The next morning Garrick put on the same dress; and coming into the parlour, where Hawkesworth was sitting, was immediately recognized by the Doctor, who entered into a conversation with him. At length Garrick revealed himself, and the Doctor confessed that he had lost the wager.'

Among the remaining designs, are four on the subject of a *happy marriage;* in which we discover few vestiges of that genius, that invention, and that knowlege of mankind, which distinguished Hogarth's other productions. He proved his good sense by withholding them from the eye of the public; and he is little indebted to the individual who has brought them forwards. It is hard that the reputation of an artist should suffer from the undistinguishing zeal of his admirers; yet several instances could be adduced in the present day, in which men of genius and of literature have been injured in their fame by the ill-judged efforts of their friends. Hogarth, however, stands on an eminence from which it will be impossible for the united exertions of either friends or enemies to remove him:

> "*Exegit monumentum ære perennius,*
> *Regalique situ pyramidum altius.*"

Though much has been published which he judiciously wished to conceal, and which he probably hoped had been committed to oblivion, he may still exclaim, with as much truth as the great Lyric Poet of the Roman world,

> "*Non omnis moriar, multaque pars mei*
> *Vitabit Libitinam.*"

S.R.

ART. VII. *Picturesque Views, with an Historical Account, of the Inns of Court, in London and Westminster.* By Samuel Ireland, Author of a Tour through Holland, Brabant, &c. &c. Large 8vo. pp. 260. 2l. 2s. Boards. Egerton, &c. 1800.

As the subject of this volume has never been treated exactly on the same plan, and as the views here selected have not before been presented to public notice, this performance will be esteemed valuable by more readers than merely those who purchase fine books.

The prints introduced are twenty-one in number, very handsomely executed, and all of them giving a faithful representation of the subjects delineated: but we could have wished that, in the descriptions annexed, the author had always mentioned the situation of the particular Inn of Court. Many of our readers, we have no doubt, are ignorant not only of the scite but of the existence of such a place as Lion's Inn, and would naturally apply to Mr. Ireland for information: but he is silent respecting the spot on which this Inn of Court is to be found; and he is equally uncommunicative regarding the situation of Furnival's Inn.

In the account of the Inner Temple, we find the following passage:

'Amongst the portraits, at the latter end of the last century, there hung one of a remarkable person, the infamous Chancellor Jeffries: it was a whole length, painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller for the Society in the reign of Charles 2d, and for which he was paid 50l. In the succeeding reign of James 2d, this Chancellor became most deservedly unpopular, and in 1693, the portrait of such a man being considered as of no credit to the society, it was ordered by the Bench to be removed, that no further indignity might be shewn to it, and that "Mr. Treasurer do declare to the Lord Jefferies (his son) that at his Lordship's desire, the house do make a present to his Lordship of his father's picture now in Mr. Holloway's chamber, who is desired to deliver the same to his Lordship or his order." It was accordingly delivered to his Lordship by Mr. Holloway, and was conveyed to the family house at Acton near Wrexham in Denbighshire.'

It might be supposed that it had escaped Mr. Ireland's recollection, that the savage Jeffries was expressly selected by James II. at the assizes following the Duke of Monmouth's Rebellion, as the Judge best qualified to display the terrors and inflict the vengeance of the law on the devoted inhabitants of the Western Counties:—but his meaning must have been that, *at the close* of this monarch's reign, the vices of this infamous chancellor brought him to that unpopularity and that punishment which history records to have been his fate.

To exemplify to our readers the nature of this performance, and of the amusement which they may expect to derive from a perusal of it, we shall select the account of an entertainment given by the Society of Lincoln's Inn to Charles the Second, and his Court.

'In the steward's office is the admission book, from 1671 to 1673, containing the following curious account of a visit paid to Lincoln's Inn, by Charles II. and his court. As it tends to display the hospitality of that period, I have inserted it at length. What adds to the curiosity of this account, is, that the king and nobility present entered their names with their own hands; and, if we may judge from the appearance of the writing, many of them, and particularly Killigrew, the jester, were a little *non compos mentis*.

" A narrative of the kings majesties reception and entertainment att Lincolnes Inne, the nyne and twentieth day of February, 1671."

" Sir Francis Goodericke, knight, one of his majesties learned councel att law, and solicitor generall to his royal highnesse the duke of Yorke, being reader of this society of Lincolnes Inn for the Lent reading, in the year 1671, having invited the king, his royal highnesse, and prince Rupert, and diverse of the nobilitie, to dine in Lincolnes Inne hall, on such day of his reading as his majestie should make choice off; his majestie was pleased to appoint Thursday, the 29th of February, 1671. And accordingly that day his majestie, together with his said royal highnesse, and his highnesse prince Rupert, being also attended by the duke of Monmouth, the duke of Richmond, the earles of Manchester, Bath, and Anglesea, the lord viscount Halifax, lord bishop of Ely, lord Newport, lord Henry Howard, and divers others of great qualitie, came to Lincolnes Inne; his majestie made his entrance thro' the garden, att the great gate opening into Chancery Lane, next to Holborne, where Mr. Reader, and the rest of the benchers and associates, waited his coming, and attended his majestie up to the tarras walke, next the field, and soe through the garden; the trumpetts and kettle drums, from the leads over the highest bay window, in the middle of the garden building, sounding all the while. And from the garden, his majestie went to the new councell' chamber; the barristers and students, in their gownes, standing in a rowe on each side, between the garden and the councell chamber; after a little rest, his majestie viewed the chappell, returning agayne to the councell chamber; from thence as soon as his table (being placed upon the ascent att the upper end of the hall, and railed in) was furnished, his majestie was brought into the hall, where his majestie sate under his canopy of state, being served by the reader as server upon his knee, with the towell before he did eat; his royal highnesse sitting att the end of the table, on his right hand, and prince Rupert att the other end. The dukes and lords, and other his majesties attendants of qualitie, after some short tyme of waiting, had leave from his majestie to sitt downe to dinnar, att tables prepared for them on each side of the hall. The reader, and some of the benchers, to witt, Sir Thomas Beverley, master of requests to his majestie, Sir Robert Atkins, knight of the

bath, all the time of his majesties dining, waiting neere his majesties chairs; and four other of the benchers, Mr. Day, Mr. Pedley, Mr. Stote, and Mr. Manby, with white staffes, waited as controllers of the hall, to keep good order; and above fifty of the barristers and students, the most part of them attending as waiters, and carrying up his majesties meat, which was served upon the knee; the rest of the barristers and students waiting upon the lords att their table. The three courses, wherein were exceeding great plenty and variety of dishes, and after them a most liberal banquett, was served up by the said barristers and students, and delivered by them, upon their knees, att the kings table; the music, consisting of his majesties violins, playing all the tyme of dinnar in the gallery, att the lower end of the hall. Towards the end of dinnar, his majestie, to doe a transcendant honour and grace to this society, and to expresse his most gracious acceptance of their humble duty and affection towards him, was pleased to demand the booke of admittances to be brought to him, and, with his owne hand, entred his royall name therein; most graciously condescending to make himself a member thereof; which high and extraordinary favour was instantly acknowledged by all the members of this society, then attending on his majestie, with all possible joy, and received with the greatest and most humble expressions of gratitude; itt being an example not precedented by any former king of this realme; his royal highnesse and prince Rupert followed this great and highest example; as also the dukes and other lords, who, before his majesties riseing from dinnar, borrowed gownes of the students and put them on, and, in those gownes, waited on his majestie, with which his majestie was much delighted: and his majestie, thro' his owne most obligeing favour, vouchsafed to itt, having made himselfe more neerely and intimately concerned for the good of this society, was pleased himselfe to begin a health to the welfare thereof, and to cause itt to be pledged in his owne presence; immediately gave the reader leave to drink his majesties health, and to begin to his royal highnesse. Then rising from dinnar, he was agayne attended to the new councell chamber, where he conferred the honour of knighthood on Mr. Nicholas Pedley and Mr Richard Stote, two of the benchers, who had in their turns beene readers of this house; as also upon Mr. James Butler, one of the barristers, and Mr. Francis Darrell, one of the students; that soe every degree and order of the society might have a signall testimony of his majesties high favour, his majestie, upon his departure, made large expressions of his most gracious acceptance of the enterteynment, and returned his thanks to the reader, and was pleased to signify the great respect and esteem he should ever have for the society."

"The gentlemen of the horse guards, yeomen of the guard, and other inferior attendants, were bountifully enterteyned att the costs and charges also of the reader. The gentlemen of the horse guards dined in the old councell chamber; the yeomen of the guards in Mr. Day's chamber; and the ——— men and lacquies in the gardener's house, to all their contentment."

"On saturday following, Mr. Reader, Sir Robert Atkins, Sir Nicholas Pedley, and Sir Richard Stote, benchers and readers of Lincoln's

Lincoln's Inn, waited on his majestie att Whitehall; being conducted to his majesties presence, by the earle of Bath, and gave most humble thanks for that high and transcendant honour, he had beene pleased to vouchsafe to this society; which was graciously received by his majestie, and did the said benchers the honour to kisse his hand."

In his preface, Mr. Ireland disclaims the idea of harbouring personal resentment against any individual. Such a declaration is not easily reconciled with the unjust and illiberal sarcasm which he has cast on Mr. Alderman Boydell:—but, as Mr. Ireland is removed from the reach of human criticism *, we shall remember the words of our great moralist,

"That English vengeance wars not with the dead."

S.R.

ART. VIII. *Letters from a Father to his Son,* on various Topics relative to Literature and the Conduct of Life. Vol. II †. Written in the Years 1798 and 1799. By J. Aikin, M. D. 8vo. pp. 341. 5s. Boards. Johnson. 1800.

THE introductory letter informs us that this volume was composed under the pressure of an illness which, the author says, 'seems to have sapped all the principles of vigour in his frame.' While it gratifies us to learn that Dr. Aikin's health has since materially improved, it is also with pleasure that we can assure our readers, that this work discovers no marks of mental languor having resulted from corporeal debility. The same just and comprehensive views, the same dispassionate temper, the same manly spirit, and (if we may use the expression) the same lettered good breeding, which distinguished his former lucubrations, equally characterize those now before us. The contents of both volumes, we think, may be considered as essays much resembling those of Addison, and his followers in the same line of writing; and as deserving a place on the same shelves with them, in the library of every judicious parent and preceptor, for the perusal of those who are committed to their charge. They belong to a species of writing which, though it professes less than many other forms of composition, yields perhaps to none in the instruction which may be derived from it; whether treating on morals, on the conduct of life, or on subjects of taste.

To form the character is the most important business of life; and assistance in this arduous task is highly to be prized. Much

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* Mr. Ireland died 'on the day in which the last sheet of this work went to the press.'

† For an account of vol. I. see M. R. vol. xiv. N. S. p. 1.

of this aid may, in our opinion, be obtained from the counsels imparted in the present volume. If our judgment does not deceive us, Dr. Aikin entertains very just conceptions of those qualities which embellish and which constitute the value of the character of man. He equally inculcates that independence of mind without which there is no individuality, and that spirit of rational accommodation without which there would be no social intercourse. He endeavours to render ardent the love of rectitude; well aware that, unless this feeling becomes an early and deeply rooted passion, there is no sure foundation for moral worth: while he ever insists on that moderation, without which all other virtues, graces, and accomplishments, will be deeply alloyed. He ranks knowlege among the necessaries of intellectual life; and he classes a relish for whatever is elegant and refined, among the instincts of cultivated nature.—We shall endeavour to give a cursory view of the general contents of the volume.

Letter II. *On Party*, contains much sound sense and valuable rules on a subject of great difficulty.—The following just distinction sets a trite topic in a new light, and shews that nothing can be more different than those lines of conduct which hitherto have been generally confounded:

'I shall begin with inculcating on your mind the difference between *taking a part*, and becoming a *party-man*. The former denotes only such an occasional or subordinate interference in party affairs, as is consistent not only with due attention to one's private concerns, but with a preservation of the ordinary intercourses of society and civility between neighbours and fellow citizens, though of opposite opinions. The latter, on the contrary, signifies such an attachment to party as influences the whole character, and gives the tone and colour to a man's conduct through life. It is the ruling passion; and like all other passions scorns the controul of good sense and moderation. To point out to you a single person under the full dominion of it, would be sufficient to warn you of its baneful efficacy in poisoning the comforts of life, and debasing the moral character.'

Let. III. *On the estimate of Morals.* Dr. Aikin here endeavours to hunt down a new monster which is become but too common among us;—we mean the *worthy private* and *profligate public* character. He is now drawn, we believe, for the first time, and held up to merited reprehension.

Let. IV. *On a criterion of perfection in Writing.* The author's criterion is the same with that which has been most generally adopted in the present age; and it is here well supported and illustrated. The Doctor shews that equal effects in oratory are produced by very dissimilar talents; and that 'every different mode of oratory, if practised by a master, may produce in

in its favour the criterion of perfection. This is, to convince the reason in the very face of prepossession; to wield at will the passions; to calm the furious and rouse the torpid; in short, to effect by the mere power of persuasion, all that can be done by brute force or all-subduing gold.'

To the observation here made on poetry, we give our fullest assent:

'From the notion above given of the perfection of poetry, I think it will follow as a corollary, that true taste cannot approve any of those devices for making it easier to the composer which have been lately practised, consisting of loose versification, the absence of rhyme where expected, prosaic simplicity of language, and the like; for, that the real purpose of such liberties is to favour the laziness of the writers, and not to add an agreeable variety to their performances, I am well convinced. As poetry is a luxury and not a necessary, its multiplication is not an object to be studied at the expence of its excellence; and a little of it, of the finest kind and richest flavour, answers its purpose much better than an abundance of ordinary growth.'

At the conclusion of this letter, the author states his hypothesis in these few lines: 'What, then, after these particular inquiries, shall we say constitutes the general perfection of writing? I can discover no other universal principle in this case, than that which is applicable to every effort of art—the degree in which it accomplishes the purpose intended.'

Letter V. contains a few *original*, many *sensible*, and some *trite* remarks on the subject of *Authority in matters of opinion*. The argument *Con.* is well pleaded: but to the *Pro*, we think, justice is not done. A wise Emperor decreed that, in difficult questions of law, the side to which the greater number of opinions leaned should have force; and that, in case of the numbers being equal, that party should prevail in favour of which was the judgment of Papinian. This deference to Papinian was wrong, if there be no foundation for the authority here controverted:—but who can forbear to pay more respect to the decisions of a dispassionate, judicious, and diligent inquirer, than to those of a hasty, violent, and confident pretender, even before the grounds of them are stated?—We agree with the author in condemning authority, as it is often set up, in matters of taste.

In Let. VI. we have the refutation of a notion which originated with the late Lord Orford, (Horace Walpole,) and which obtained very general adoption; namely, that the *Garden of Eden*, as described in Paradise Lost, was *the prototype of modern Landscape Gardening*. Dr. A. traces to preceding writers the passages on which this conjecture, so confidently advanced, was so hastily grounded. This letter forms a pleasing and masterly piece of criticism.

Letter

Letter VII. *On the Character of Ajax in the Iliad.* In Dr. Aikin's hands, this subject has given birth to some original and just remarks; and the Grecian hero is raised from that inferiority of estimation in which he has commonly been held.

Let. VIII. treats *on Evidence in Matters of Fact.* Dr. Aikin here observes:

'Upon some individuals, perhaps almost upon whole nations, the love of fame operates as one of the most forcible of all motives.—It is seldom that one who looks to high honour from a discovery, will be content with exactly the share that belongs to him, and will not use some artifice to make it appear greater than it is. He will not only be tempted to claim a priority in the inventions of another, but to add to his own some fictitious circumstances which may improve their brilliance or solidity. On this account it has happened, that those discoveries which have best stood the test of experimental inquiry, have been made by men, not only cool and cautious in their tempers, but little influenced by the desire of admiration. Our countrymen Newton and Harvey, may serve as examples of this truth; and perhaps the comparative indifference to fame observable in our nation renders our philosophers better authority in matter of fact, than the more vain-glorious, though highly ingenious and active ones, of France and Italy. I wish our veracity was equally proof against the love of money.'

That Newton was little desirous of just admiration has by no means been proved; and we think that the contrary might be shewn. In regard to Dr. Harvey, the author is doubtless better instructed.—We believe that it is not in scientific matters of fact alone that English veracity excels; we have understood that, in all which regards commerce, it holds equal pre-eminence.

The author thus concludes this letter:

'After all these remarks on insufficient evidence, you will perhaps say, What then are we to reckon sufficient? I cannot answer this question otherwise than by reversing the preceding negatives, and pronouncing it to be, that which is given by cool, cautious, disinterested, and well-informed persons, not zealously attached to system or party, and apparently more solicitous to instruct than to shine. Such I hope you will meet with by careful research on most occasions which require you to form positive opinions; yet I will conclude with advising you, as engaged in a branch of experimental philosophy, Never implicitly to confide in the experiment of another, when you can repeat it yourself;—and, as an inquirer into the facts of history, Never to be satisfied with a single account, when there are others with which you can compare it.'

Let. IX. *On the Character of Cicero.* The two following remarks on this beaten subject appear to us to be as new as they are just:

'It should probably be attributed to a remaining grossness of manners at Rome in Cicero's time, the consequence of recent civilization, that his self love appears under such broad and undisguised features. Had the same delicacy of feeeling then prevailed, as we find in modern times, or even in the age of Pliny, his good sense must have restrained him from shocking it by a total want of decorum in displaying his merits.'

As this topic is interesting, and as the student is misled by the splendid work of Dr. Middleton, which is rather an apology for than a life of Cicero, we shall make some additional quotations from the present writer; who, in this as in other instances, deserts the frequented road only in order to move in the right path:

'What a confirmation do the errors of this great man afford of the philosophical maxim, that true wisdom and virtue are inseparable! With intellectual qualities superior to those of most public men in any age, he was perpetually diverted from the path of real policy, as well as of duty, by considerations proceeding from the defects of his original principles of conduct, and the imbecility of his temper.

'Meantime let us be just and candid in our estimate of characters. Cicero lived in a period full of difficulties to one who wished really to serve his country in public life. The ancient constitution of Rome, always unsettled and ill balanced, was now almost reduced to a mere nominal existence; and amid contending parties, all factious and turbulent, ceased to exert any steady authority. Without joining himself to a *party*, a man could acquire no consequence, and without consequence, he could do no good. Cicero chose the side he thought the best, but he was fully sensible of its defects. Perhaps the only public point on which he felt entire conviction, was the necessity of quelling the Catilinarian conspiracy; and in effecting this, his conduct was uniformly great and laudable. To have been the acknowledged saviour of his country on one grand occasion, is a merit and felicity that rarely occurs to an individual. This, too, was the business of his highest elevation, when he had attained the object of which he had so long been in pursuit. It is fair, therefore, to conclude, that had he been born to power, he would have exerted it for the good of mankind; and that even in his most censurable compliances for obtaining it, he secretly resolved to make amends by his use of it. Neither could any thing be more pure and exemplary than his conduct as governor of a province. In this situation, as well as in his consulship, love of praise coincided with duty, and stimulated him to the most beneficial exertions. Suppose him placed in the situation of Pliny, a wealthy heir, trained to letters under an illustrious kinsman, the subject of a government which gave no scope to party politics, seeing a path open to distinction by the easy methods of cultivating polite literature and innoxious eloquence, finally, cherished by a virtuous and indulgent master, and raised to honours which were to be best maintained by copying the benevolent plan of the bestower;—in such circumstances, Cicero, like Pliny, would probably have had only the foible of vanity to counterbalance

exalted

exalted talents and amiable virtues. He was kind and humane before those were properly Roman qualities. He was a zealous promoter of philosophical studies, while yet they were scarcely naturalized to his country. We may wish, indeed, that his philosophy had been more a principle of action, than a topic for discussion; for it must be acknowledged, that on real emergencies, such as his banishment, and the death of his daughter, it miserably failed him. But with all the systems of philosophy before him, and judgment to choose the most rational, he wanted a *philosophical temper;* and Epicurus, whom he despised so much as a systematist, would as severely have reproved his practical weaknesses, as the rigid Zeno.'

Dr. Aikin institutes a parallel between Cicero and Bacon: but we think that, though the materials of which these great men were composed, and the moulds in which they were cast, might not be unlike; yet the elements and temperature, to which they were severally exposed, were so different as to leave little ground for comparison between them. Cicero appeared on a more propitious theatre; our countryman lived in one of the most slavish periods of our history.—Bacon's ingratitude to the Earl of Essex is here duly noticed; and from that black instance, his inferiority to the Roman in moral worth is justly inferred. We are of the author's opinion that, 'on the whole, the moral and political character of Cicero stands much higher than that of Bacon, who, perhaps, equally surpasses the Roman in his intellectual character.'

This letter does justice to the memory of a great man, the favourite of every scholar, and every person of taste. We should hope that, in all future editions of Middleton's life of the Roman orator, Dr. Aikin's remarks will form an addendum.

Of Let. X. *on the Value of Life*, the following reflections may be taken as a specimen:

'The attachment to life is in no assignable proportion to external circumstances. It is sometimes weak in the young, the wealthy, the vigorous, with numerous sources of enjoyment courting their acceptance; while it is strong in the indigent, old, and valetudinary, to whom existence might be thought a burden. The fact is, that here, as in so many other instances, *mind* is the true measure of man, and it creates to itself its habitual sentiments and affections, with little dependence on the world without. It may, I think, in general be observed, that the greatest lovers of life are persons of a sanguine temperament, engaged in active pursuits, full of projects for futurity, readily attaching themselves to new objects and new acquaintances, and able to convert every occurrence of life into a matter of importance:—on the other hand, the phlegmatic, inactive, dubious, desponding, and indifferent, as soon as the warmth and curiosity of youth are over, frequently become careless about the remainder of life, and rather consent to live on through habit, than feel themselves much

much interested in the continuance of their existence. They may be sensible that there is a balance of enjoyment in their favour, and that therefore, on the calculation, their condition is infinitely better than non-existence; but still it is a repetition of the same things, and the prospect of to-morrow adds nothing to the petty pleasures of to-day. If this be a true statement, it would appear that *expectation* is the grand desideratum of life, not more important as a stimulus to action, than as a zest for giving relish to the passing scenes. When a man has outlived expectation, it will generally be found that, independently of the positive fear of death, he has little remaining attachment to life.'—

'It appears to me one of the great evils of the advanced state of society in which we live, that moderate enjoyments are too little valued, and things only of the highest relish will please our pampered and vitiated appetites. Amusement has changed to dissipation, convenience to luxury, elegance to splendour. Ideas of opulence have passed all bounds of modest computation, and the wealth of a province is scarcely enough for the schemes of a London counting-house, "Quos non Oriens, non Occidens satiaverit."

Letter XI. *On the Respect due to our Superiors.* Here the author draws the line with nice discrimination: but it is probable that *all* his readers may not coincide with him in every position. No manly and liberal mind, however, will refuse its assent to these concluding remarks:

'You will perceive, from the tenor of this letter, that I am a real friend to those honorary distinctions which have their basis in utility, and contribute to the maintenance of peace and good order in society; and it is because I am a friend to them, that I hold in light estimation those frivolous or arrogant claims which are their rivals. I wish to see honour paid where honour is due; but I would have the debt fairly established and exactly stated. There are points of respect and deference to which none of the demands of society can justly be construed to extend. To make a sacrifice of moral principle, at the shrine of a superior, will never be justified by a friend of virtue: as little will the liberal mind acquiesce in the blind submission of the understanding, or the resignation of the right of freely uttering an opinion on matters which have been rendered familiar to us by study and education.'

Let. XII. treats *on the Taste for Farming.* Among the manias which late years have witnessed, was that of engaging in agriculture: but it is obvious that this is not an occupation for persons of liberal education and moderate fortunes;—if the point admitted of doubt, the present letter would remove it. In praise of the services which may be and have been rendered to this valuable art by the co-operation of very affluent persons, too much cannot be said; for agriculture may be greatly indebted to wealthy men of cultivated minds:—but only the regularly bred farmer will be benefited by it as a lucrative pursuit.

The

The incompatibility of an indulgence in a sentimental love of the country, or of picturesque, with the necessary pursuits of agriculture, will appear from the following lively remarks:

'In fact, no two tastes can be more incompatible than that of the genuine farmer and the lover of picturesque. The first, in every thing, follows the *straight line*—in his furrows, drains, hedge-rows, fences, roads, &c.—for this plain reason, that it is *the shortest way between two points:* the second, for no reason equally clear and decisive, abhors and shuns the straight line, and would rather incur serious inconveniences than admit such a feature of deformity into any part of his prospect. The farmer totally disregards the shades and contrasts of colour in his fields, and, provided he establishes a good rotation of crops, is indifferent whether red is bordered by yellow or green. The man of picturesque, on the contrary, cannot endure to look upon square patches of obtrusive unharmonized colouring, which destroy all keeping, and abolish that beautiful degradation of tints which is essential to landscape. A rich crop is to him nothing but a deformity, if composed of an unsightly material, and the sober russet of a wild heath may suit his purpose better than any hue culture can bestow.'——

'Nor will those facts in natural history, or those grand and beautiful phenomena of the elements, which delight the curious speculatist, long give pleasure to the cultivator, who comes too soon to associate his personal advantage or disadvantage with every circumstance, and loses that happy vacancy of mind which disposes it to the admission of easy gratification. Native plants are to him, in general, noxious weeds; birds and insects, depredators on his property. He cannot view the maternal care of nature in providing for the continuance and multiplication of all living creatures, without wishing that the interests of man had been more exclusively consulted in the economy of things. On the approach of the awful storm, which excites such sublime emotions in the breast of the poet, he only exclaims with Virgil's husbandman, "dabit ille ruinas——ruet omnia late!"

"What wide destruction on its coming waits!"

And certainly it is not to him that

"————e'en winter wild is full of bliss,

when he thinks of the difficulty of supporting his sheep and cattle through a long and rigorous frost, or painfully drags through miry roads to survey his flooded fields and rotting crops.'

Letter XIII., on the stale topics of *History and Biography*, presents us with some original and valuable remarks. In the passage which follows, the author dives deeper into the subject than his usual aim seems to promise:

'From biography may also be learned the fallacy of those analogical conclusions respecting the attributes of the mind, which suppose a necessary co-existence between certain moral and intellectual qualities, according to some hypothetical notions of their constitutional cause. This is a copious source of misrepresentation in the modern philosophical works of fiction, and one, in my opinion, capable

capable of doing much mischief. By confounding the active and passive qualities of mind, they have made the degree in which impressions are received, a test of the energies ready to be exerted. Thus, passion to the verge of madness, sensibility so exquisite as to become disease, and uncontroulable ardour of desire, are painted as the constant concomitants of high intellectual powers, vigour of imagination, and all the nobler virtues of the heart. Hence youth are taught to regard as symptoms of an exalted soul, actions and propensities the most injurious to society and the individual; and to look with scorn upon that sedateness and moderation of character, which the most judicious moralists have accounted the perfection of humanity. But biography not only presents combinations of qualities which baffle *all* speculative reasonings concerning the mental constitution, but, in particular, it contradicts the false analogies above hinted at. In the enumeration of great writers, admirable inventors, active philanthropists, consummate generals, profound politicians,—of all those *master-minds*, in short, who lead the opinions and direct the fate of mankind, I am convinced a majority will be found, whose calm and unruffled tempers allowed an uninterrupted exercise to their intellectual faculties,—who were men of method, order, and regularity, in full possession of themselves, and capable of directing at will the whole force of their minds upon the objects in which they were engaged. On the other hand, characters of violence, caprice, and uncontrouled desire, so properly termed by the Romans *impotentia animi*, are most frequently to be met with among the degenerate possessors of hereditary power, or the unworthy favourites of fortune, raised by some frivolous accomplishments to stations for which nature never designed them. Or if they are found in alliance with genius and elevated sentiment, that genius is usually wasted on unequal and abortive efforts, and that sentiment leads to nothing but vain resolutions and unavailing regrets.

'Those characters in biography are most instructive and animating, in which we see persevering efforts overcoming a crowd of obstacles, and distinguished eminence gradually rising out of moderate beginnings. This is, in fact, the discipline through which some of the greatest names among mankind have passed; and it may be asserted, that none of the original favourites of nature and fortune have attained a superiority so solid and durable, as that acquired by such a course of probation. But it is not from volatile impetuous characters, however active and ardent, that such a steady career in proficiency is to be expected; and that kind of rapid restless genius, which is fired by every splendid prospect, and obtains easy conquests in every new field of exertion, is rather an impediment than a help in the progress to excellence.'

The object of Voltaire's celebrated *Siècle de Louis XIV.* is thus stated:

'The fact seems to be, that under a kind of philosophical form, it was meant to flatter that national vanity which had so long annexed its own glory to the renown of its favourite monarch; and to sustain the declining reputation of Louis XIV. by making him appear as the

soul and main spring of a splendid and important period. In reality, so little did the character of Lewis contribute to form this period, that he lived to wear out all those talents which had entered the scene with him; and by consuming without renovation, he left France as much beggared of excellence of every kind, as it was despoiled of power and opulence.'

If the author would be understood to deny that Louis was the soul of the age in which he reigned, we conceive that the idea is not less singular than erroneous. It is not to be denied that this monarch coveted every species of glory, and particularly that of being the patron of talents in every line; and it cannot be said, that he wanted either judgment in discriminating, or munificence in rewarding them. If this must be conceded, surely nothing more is wanting to prove that the blaze of the period emanated in a great degree from Louis. The most judicious and dispassionate readers of history have, of late, maintained that the defamers of Louis have not less outstepped the truth than his panegyrists.—With regard to Leo X., we think, Dr. A.'s observations are more applicable.

Letter XIV., *on Openness and Sincerity*, analyzes and exposes the idea inculcated by some modern speculatists, of the virtue and the duty of unreservedly promulgating our opinions on all subjects, in all places, and at all times.

Let. XV. discusses *the Advantages of a Taste for Poetry.*—Young readers will find useful hints in the subsequent passage:

'A narrative poem or a play will be read for the first time with curiosity respecting its story and conclusion, like any other piece of narration; but if it has merit enough to be admitted into the stock of a student's treasures, it will be re-perused chiefly for the sake of the passages of peculiar excellence interspersed through it, which perhaps do not give out all their beauties even to a second or third reading. Thus it is that all the great works of ancient and modern times become part of the daily food, as it were, of the polite scholar, and impregnate his mind with their richest fruits. The mixture of very gross defects will not considerably impair the pleasure derived from excellence; for a habit is soon acquired of gliding over, with lax attention or free allowance, the parts we disapprove, and dwelling only on such as are worth our admiration. We are even, by this habit, sometimes rendered too insensible to a writer's faults in a critical estimate of relative merit, though for the purposes with which poetry is usually read we may be gainers by our indulgence.'

The letter thus terminates:

'From the very early period at which books constituted one of my chief pleasures, to the time at which I write, I have seldom passed a day without some perusal of a poetical work. I have habitually made it the *bonne bouche* of my studies, and have often placed it before me as a sort of recompence for assiduity in literary or professional labours. My relish for it still remains undiminished; for whatever may

may be lost in fondness for the wilder and more fanciful parts of poetry, is compensated in increased attachment to the more serious and dignified. I would hope, too, that this taste has not merely served me for amusement; and if I do not deceive myself, I can refer to the strong impressions made by poetry, the origin of some of those sentiments, which I should not willingly part with. This experience I think sufficiently justifies me in recommending to my son what has so materially contributed to my own happiness.'

In Letter XVI. *On the best Mode of encountering the Evils of Life*, the author instances the following examples of the spirit proper to be shewn under calamity:

'Horace was sufficiently sensible of the merit of bearing up against misfortunes, in the person of Homer's Ulysses, whom he characterises in true poetical language, as

——adversis rerum immersabilis undis.
Still buoyant 'mid the waves of adverse fate.

The hero was not less the *patient*, the *much-enduring man*, on account of this struggle. He did not complain, but he acted. In like manner it is the generous injunction of the Sybil to Æneas,

Tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito
Quâ tua te Fortuna sinet:
Yield not to ills, but push a bolder course
Where Fortune points the way.

Among the real characters of antiquity, Aristomenes, the Messenian chief, seems to have been peculiarly distinguished by this buoyancy of spirit, this *renitency* of the mind against the pressure of adversity. Wounded, defeated, thrown into a dungeon, he still preserved his hopes and exertions; and when the foes of his country thought him at the last extremity, they suddenly found him more formidable than ever. The Scottish hero, Wallace, seems closely to have resembled him in this respect. Such a disposition of mind is shewn in small things, as well as in great. It is mentioned as a characteristic trait of Charles XII. of Sweden, that once after he had sat up all night to dictate dispatches, his secretary, when they were finished, having thrown ink instead of sand over the writing, the king very coolly said, "then we must begin again;" and went on as if nothing had happened. This was worthy of Charles at Bender. I have read of a scholar who, in a somewhat similar case, had an opportunity of displaying as much heroism as any king or general in their greatest actions—for the emergency was as great to him, as a contest for a kingdom to them. An accidental fire had destroyed his papers prepared for publication, the labour of many years. He recommenced the work that very day. The Romans made it criminal to despair of the commonwealth; and after the greatest disasters, their only thought was how to repair them.'

Let. XVII. *On the comparative Value of different Studies.* In the discussion of this subject, Dr. Aikin is not inclined to give

a preference to the study of any one branch of knowlege exclusively. He observes:

'It is, doubtless, impossible for a single mind to embrace all the objects here pointed out so as to fathom the depths of human knowledge in each;—to be at the same time the mind of Newton, Locke, Boyle, and Haller: but according to the degree in which a man had imbibed the leading ideas which constituted the intellectual furniture of such minds, I should estimate the value of his attainments; and I should prefer, though not in point of genius, yet with respect to acquisitions, one who combined a tolerably accurate acquaintance with all the branches of knowledge possessed by these, to a complete adept in any one of them. The last mentioned of the above persons, Haller, was scarcely, I believe, surpassed by any man in the variety, and at the same time the solidity, of his physical knowledge. Buffon may be named as one whose general views were as grand, and whose pursuits were planned upon as enlarged a scale, as those of any person whom studies of this class have rendered famous, though he wanted accuracy and solidity in many of the particulars of his speculations. As a criterion of this capaciousness and elevation of understanding, I would suppose a delegate sent from this earth to explore some other world and bring back the most complete and important information concerning it: the person duly selected for such a mission would, in my idea, possess a title to the superiority in question.'

The last Letter treats *on the Experience of Life*, and concludes in a manner which is worthy of the well-known candor and philosophical spirit of the writer:

'From the tenor of the preceding remarks, you will perceive that I am far from supposing the true experience of life always to accompany length of years. If, therefore, I venture to recommend to your attention the opinions I have advanced in these letters on a variety of important topics, it is with the hope that you will find some reasons for taking them into consideration, besides that of their proceeding from a senior and a father. It is not for me to suggest these; I may, however, be permitted to say, that my life, though not an eventful one, has upon the whole been a favourable mixture of the active and the contemplative; that my connexions with society have been varied and moderately extensive; and that my temper and habits have not indisposed me for making use of the opportunities for observation which have presented themselves. The correction of my prejudices, (for what man is without them?) has long been the most serious occupation of my mind; with what success, I leave others to pronounce. Some will probably think that much prejudice still remains. I will not affirm that it is not so, but would hope that I am still open to conviction, where error should be proved against me. The state of health which has compelled me to quit the scenes of business, has at length fixed me in a quiet and agreeable retreat, friendly to that progress in mental improvement which is still my humble aim. If I may yet be enabled to contribute any thing to the amusement or instruction of my countrymen, particularly the younger part of them, I shall reflect with satisfaction on the measure of life and exertion assigned

assigned me, and feel no further solicitude, but that the termination of the latter may be that of the former.'

It is not necessary for us, in conclusion, to resume our general remarks on the contents of this work; and we have now only to observe, in some degree adopting the author's final sentiment and expressions, that we shall reflect with satisfaction on the mental labours which our duty imposes on us, whenever the pleasure which we may derive from future exertions shall equal that which has been afforded us in the present instance.

Jo..s.

ART. IX. *The Father and Daughter*, a Tale in Prose; with an Epistle from the Maid of Corinth to her Lover; and other poetical Pieces. By Mrs. Opie. 12mo. pp. 250. 4s. 6d. Boards. Longman, &c. 1801.

THE pleasures of melancholy are suited only to minds of uncommon susceptibility,—to those persons who may be said to have a sympathetic *taste* for *distress*; and from readers of this class, the tale of woe now before us will meet with peculiar acceptance. For ourselves, we own that we have been truly affected by the perusal of it, since it is replete with interest, and possesses pathos enough to affect the heart of the most callous of *critical* readers. Our only consolation, under the first impression on our feelings, arose from the hope and persuasion that the story is *not* founded on *Fact*, though the tragic part and the catastrophe may be too often exemplified in the consequences attending the profligacy of our young men of fortune and fashion.

Mrs. Opie speaks thus modestly of her production:

'It is not without considerable apprehension that I offer myself as an avowed Author at the bar of public opinion,—and that apprehension is heightened by its being the general custom to give indiscriminately the name of NOVEL to every thing in Prose that comes in the shape of a Story, however simple it be in its construction, and humble in its pretensions.

'By this means, the following Publication is in danger of being tried by a standard according to which it was never intended to be made, and to be criticised for wanting those merits which it was never meant to possess.

'I therefore beg leave to say, in justice to myself, that I know "THE FATHER AND DAUGHTER" is wholly devoid of those attempts at strong character, comic situation, bustle, and variety of incident, which constitute a NOVEL, and that its highest pretensions are, to be a SIMPLE, MORAL TALE.'

As this narrative is not well adapted for either abridgment or detail, we shall only add our brief commendation of its moral

tendency, and proceed to take some notice of the poetical pieces which the ingenious authoress has added to the prose part of this publication. The first and most considerable of these small but pleasing productions is 'An Epistle supposed to be addressed by Eudora, the Maid of Corinth, to her Lover, Philemon, informing him of her having traced his shadow on the wall, while he was sleeping, the night before his departure to a foreign country; together with the joyful consequences of this action.' The ARGUMENT is thus given:

'Dibutades, a Potter, of Sicyon, first formed likenesses in clay *, at Corinth, but was indebted to his daughter for the invention. The girl being in love with a young man who was soon going from her into some remote country, traced out the lines of his face from his shadow on the wall by candle-light. Her father, filling up the lines with his clay, formed a bust, and hardened it in the fire with the rest of his earthen ware.'

This accidental discovery, according to the Epistle, brought Dibutades into great fame and fortune. We shall copy a part of Eudora's address, as a sufficient specimen of Mrs. Opie's poetical compositions:

'EUDORA *to* PHILEMON.

'Yes, I must write—applause to me is vain,
Tho' by admiring multitudes bestow'd,
While my proud triumphs still unknown remain
To thee, dear source from which the blessings flow'd.

'Then let me breathe the tidings in thine ear;
Learn how to bless me Love and Fame agree!
Why art thou absent at an hour so dear?
I hate e'en glory, if unshar'd by thee.

'On the sad eve of that unwelcome day
Ordain'd to tear thee from Eudora's arms,
My sinking heart, to various fears a prey,
Felt all a lover's exquisite alarms.

'Now with slow step, and now with frantic speed,
Thro' public scenes or lonely shades I rov'd,
When, lo! a favouring, pitying Power decreed
That I asleep should find the youth I lov'd.

'Yes—I beheld thee (hour with blessings fraught!)
As on thy hand thy sleep-flush'd cheek repos'd:
Yet I, at first, by cold decorum taught,
Fled, and with blushing haste the portal clos'd.

'But soon Affection fondly check'd my flight:
She whisper'd, "View that winning form once more:
Remember, he who lately charm'd thy sight
Will seek at morning's dawn a distant shore."

* The Wedgwood of his time.

'At that idea, frigid caution fled;
To passion's sway resigning all my soul,
And hurrying back, with timid, trembling tread,
With breath suspended, to thy couch I stole.

'Long time I stood in tender thoughts entranc'd,
Gazing uncheck'd,—a new unwonted bliss—
Now to thy cheek my trembling lips advanc'd,
Nor quite bestow'd nor quite withheld the kiss.

"And must that form delight my eyes no more?"
I softly murmur'd as regret impell'd,
When, lo! with rapture never felt before,
I thy dear shadow on the wall beheld.

'That moment, Love upon his votary smil'd,
My hand his sceptre, and his throne my breast;
He fired the thought which then my grief beguil'd,
And which to future times will make me blest.

'With eager haste I seiz'd a slender wand
Which near the couch a friendly Power had plac'd,
And with a beating heart, a trembling hand,
Along the wall the faithful shadow trac'd.

'O happy moment! how my bosom burn'd
With transport, rich reward for all my pain,
When, tho' thy head in various postures turn'd,
I saw the outline still unchang'd remain!

'But 'midst my rapture as I heard thee sigh,
And half awak'ning speak Eudora's name,
Beheld thee throw thy languid arms on high,
As recollection o'er thy senses came,

'Asham'd to meet thy fond, inquiring eyes,
Asham'd my strong emotion to reveal,
Again I fled—resolv'd my new-found prize
E'en from thy knowlege I'd with care conceal—

'But when I reach'd my home, to Memory's eye
So dear, so precious seem'd the mimic line,
"Hence, hence, reserve!" I cried, "vain scruples, fly!
Philemon's heart shall share the joy of mine!"

'Ah me! that promis'd pleasure Fate denied—
When next we met, thou cam'st to bid farewell!
And I forgot the invention late my pride,
While on thy neck in speechless grief I fell.

'But when, dear youth! thy last farewell I heard,
Nor more my living lover met my view,
Thy lifeless semblance to my mind recurr'd,
And to the prize with breathless speed I flew.

'Then, as Aurora, while o'er sinking night
Her radiant hand assumes a sudden sway,
In one vast urn collecting all her light,
Pours in full stream at once the flood of day,

'So in a moment, skill'd the gloom to chase
Which absence (lovers' night) around me spread,
Upon the wall beam'd forth thy well-known face,
And from my mind Affliction's darkness fled.

'What tho' I could not on that wall survey
The youthful crimson mantling on thy cheek,
Nor bid the sorrow-soothing line pourtray
Those looks which passion, valour, genius speak—
Yet, as I gaze, see Fancy's friendly art
The charms they wanted to my lines supply,
See the soft magic of her touch impart
Bloom to thy cheek, and lustre to thine eye:

Thus, tho' the orb that gilds the face of night
Is, sages say, a gloomy mass alone,
When Phœbus fills her with his radiant light,
She charms our eyes with splendour not her own.

'But soon new hopes my throbbing bosom sway—
I with quick footsteps to my father press—
Exclaiming, "Haste! the mimic lines survey,
Whose magic power has sooth'd my fond distress."

'And as he wond'ring gaz'd, I cried, "Thy art
Shall stronger yet Philemon's graces show,
Bid his crisp'd curls upon his forehead part,
And speak the grandeur of his swelling brow."

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This is not the first time that we have introduced the Muse of Mrs. Opie to the approbation of our readers: see M. R. vol. xxxi. N. S. p. 356. G.

ART. X. *Travels from France to Italy, through the Lepontine Alps;* or, an Itinerary of the Road from Lyons to Turin, by the Way of the Pays-de-Vaud, the Vallais, and across the Monts Great St. Bernard, Simplon, and St. Gothard: with typographical and historical Descriptions of the principal Places which lie contiguous to the Route; including some Philosophical Observations on the Natural History and Elevation of that Part of the Alps. To which are added, Remarks on the Course of the Rhône, from its Source to the Mediterranean Sea. By Albanis Beaumont. Folio. pp. 214 and 27 Plates. 5l. 5s. Boards. Robinsons. 1800.

THE author of this splendid volume was born in the neighbourhood of Chamberry in (*ci-devant*) Savoy, now the department of Mont-Blanc, was educated in the University of Turin, was hydraulic engineer in the service of the late King of Sardinia, and was employed by him in constructing the well-known beautiful works at Nice, when he had the honour of being introduced to the Duke of Gloucester, who was then on his travels; and, in consequence of a flattering application

to his sovereign, he was commanded to attend his Royal Highness through Switzerland, Italy, &c. and then to accompany him to England. From this period, he has been attached to the establishment of the Duke of Gloucester; and during his residence in England, he has published various writings (which we have at different periods noticed in our Review *,) that reflect credit on the discernment of his royal patron, and have respectfully introduced the writer, though a foreigner, to the knowlege of the British public. From all his literary productions, Mr. Beaumont appears to be a great philanthropist, and it is impossible not to esteem him for his goodness of heart: but by critics he is chiefly to be considered as a geological traveller; and our countryman, Sir William Hamilton, is not more enamoured of *burning mountains*, than Mr. Beaumont is delighted by *frozen Alps*. Though, previously to his arrival in England, he published "*Voyage Pittoresque aux Alpes Pennines*," and has since printed his Travels in the *Rhætian*, the *Maritime*, and (now) in the *Lepontine* Alps, he is not tired of the pursuit; nor does he think that he has exhausted the subject: since, as we are informed, he has now been abroad more than four years, in a region of the Alps hitherto imperfectly explored by him †, for the purpose of completing his design of furnishing, by his united publications, *an entire Picture of the Alps*. It has also been announced to us, that Mr. Beaumont has been very indefatigable; and that he is preparing a work far more amusing in its narrative, and even more splendid in its embellishments, than any which he has hitherto offered to the world. We have seen a prospectus, or general view of its contents: but, as our business is to comment on books which are actually before the public, and not to anticipate those which are projected, we must confine ourselves to the pages and plates now submitted to our perusal and notice.

'Encouragement,' says Mr. B. in his advertisement prefixed to the present work, 'stimulates to perseverance;' and he adduces the flattering reception which the English have given to his former volumes, as an apology for presenting a continuation of his Alpine observations. He fears, however, that, as philosophy is not now the fashion, and as 'the noise of war and the hurricanes of political contention have made the Great,

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* See M. R. *N. S.* vol. x. p. 308. (this is the article to which Mr. B. has alluded in his advertisement, and not the Review for *June* 1794, p. 183.) vol. xii. p. 303. vol. xiv. p. 183. and vol. xviii. p. 212.

† The Cottian Alps; which, he tells us in the present work, he was meditating to re-visit.

in general, inattentive to the sweet and mild invitations which Nature is continually giving to man to study her works,' his book ventures forth at an inauspicious period; and that he might not improperly address it in the words of Martial,

"*I, fuge; sed poteras tutior esse domi.*" Lib. i. Epig. 4.

Without undertaking to decide how far this may or may not be the case, or whether Mr. B. has been most patronized as a philosopher or as an artist, we shall proceed to give some account of the travels here recorded.

Mr. Beaumont sets out from Lyons, after having given a brief account of the trade and population of this city before the Revolution, of its public edifices, squares, and quays; which last are from four to five miles in length, and 100 feet in width. He then proceeds to the mountain de Fourviere; to the Pays de Vilbonne; to the romantic village of Cerdon; to the waterfall, lake, and town of Nantua: to the Perte du Rhône; to Ferney; to Geneva; and, skirting the left bank of the Lake, to Versoix, Copet, Nion, Rolle, Lausanne, Vevais, and Villeneuve. Hence he goes to Bex, crosses the Rhône at St. Maurice in the road to Martignie, takes the northern side of the Great St. Bernard, ascends to the Hospice, and descends into the plains of Piedmont; visits St. Remi, Aösta, Chatillon, the fortress of *Barde* *, Ivrea, (in the map called Jurea); and takes notice of the *château* of the deceased Count Perron, many years his late Sardinian Majesty's secretary for foreign affairs, which contains a very valuable cabinet of mineralogy, and a complete collection of the most curious plants found in the Lepontine and Pennine Alps: but he does not describe *Turin*, assigning as a reason for the omission, (a remark which would have applied in other cases as well as here,) that it contains nothing particularly interesting with regard to lithology, the prominent feature of the present work.

From Turin, the capital of Piedmont, the traveller returns to Martignie, and thence takes an Eastern direction through the Upper Vallais, to Sion, to Siders, to Leuk, to Brieg, and thence across Mount Simplon to Simpelendorf; from which place returning to Brieg, he shapes a new course to Munster, Ubrichen, the Glacier of Fourche or Furca, the source of the Rhône, Airolo, Mont St. Gothard, Urseren, and the Devil's bridge.

Such is the route described by Mr. Beaumont; and his itinerary is truly that of a naturalist,—perhaps more so than

* Since celebrated for having checked Bonaparte's career, for a time, in his last invasion and conquest of Italy.—See M. Rev. vol. xxxiv. N. S. p. 193.

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the generality of his readers would have desired. He takes continual notice of the composition of mountains, of the position of their respective strata, and of the marine substances which may be found in them. Considering the prominent idea which pervades the whole, he has selected the following very apposite motto from Ovid:

> " *Vidi ego quod fuerat quondam solidissima tellus*
> *Esse fretum; vidi factas ex æquore terras:*
> *Et procul a pelago conchæ jacuere marinæ;*
> *Et vetus inventa est in montibus anchora summis.*
> *Quodque fuit campus, vallem decursus aquarum*
> *Fecit; et eluvie mons est deductus in æquor.*" Met. Lib. xv.

That this globe has experienced a series of revolutions, and has sustained the most tremendous convulsions, may be said to be *manifest* to the miner, who pierces deep into its bowels; and to the philosopher, who explores the high peaks and projecting promontories which mountainous regions and the shores of the ocean exhibit. It is equally evident, from the multitude of marine substances every where found, that the present continents, even the most elevated spots of them, were once submarine; and it is very rational to attribute much effect to the operation of water, in endeavouring to account for the present irregularity and position of substances on the earth's surface. We think that Mr. B. is completely justified as far as he erects his theory on this principle: but we do not see any reason for admitting that the incroachments and retreats of the sea have been caused by the poles of the ecliptic and equator successively approaching to and retiring from each other; and we have our doubts respecting the correctness of some of his geological explanations relative to the formation of mountains*, and especially the origin of the lake of Genoa, or lake Leman. We hesitate, also, to subscribe to all his observations on the loss and recovery of the Rhône. It is here remarked that this river descends into its subterraneous passage with great vehemence, and reappears with singular placidity, scarcely discovering any motion except by some trifling bubbles and eddies; and our philosophic traveller would account for this fact by supposing that the form of its channel is that of a syphon, having the leg or end, at the part at which the Rhône re-appears, more vertical than the other leg, at its descent under ground. However true this conjecture may be, it will not of itself explain the fact that none of the substances, which have been thrown by way of experiment into

* It is more reasonable to imagine that the lofty peaks of the Alps were elevated by an expansive power which convulsed the earth, than to suppose them to be formed by a chrystallizing process under water.

that

that part of the current which inhumes itself, ever rise on the opposite side. When water sinks and re-ascends, the form of its course must resemble a syphon; and if the channel were unobstructed, pieces of wood, or any other firm substance specifically lighter than the fluid, would descend and ascend with it. We believe, however, that the fact is that rivers, like the Rhône on the Continent and the *Mole* in England, which lose themselves for a short time in the bowels of the earth, are filtrated through porous strata, or layers of pebbles, or fragments of loose rocks; that this filtration takes place to some extent along the bed of the rivers before they are finally lost; and that they recover themselves not all at once, but in a manner similar to their descent.

Our difference of opinion with this gentleman, on these topics, does not diminish our respect for his talents; and, having already delineated his route, it is now our office to detail some of the entertainment and instruction which it affords.

Rural scenery and rural life seem to be Mr. Beaumont's delight, and he therefore takes every opportunity of indulging in the description of both. Scarcely has he quitted Lyons, and ascended the mountain *de Fourviere*, when he breaks out into rapturous admiration; and, as he advances to the *Pays de Valbonne*, his pleasures increase:

'The country (says he) presents an immense plain, which loses itself in the horizon at its northern extremity; yet the numerous towns, villages, and hamlets, irregularly scattered over this rich and extensive surface, not only diversify the view, and destroy the idea of monotony which a wild tract of plain frequently conveys, but embellish the scene, and prove, to a certainty, the industry of the inhabitants. Besides, most of the farm-houses and cottages, though constructed of clay, make such a cleanly and decent appearance, that penury seems totally discarded from their humble dwellings.

'The manner of building, on inquiry, appeared so simple, while the effect was so pleasing, that I cannot withhold the information I gained, on this subject, from one of the honest peasants, who was in the act of making some addition to his little cottage. After shewing me the manner in which the clay was prepared, by beating it with a mallet (made on purpose) for a length of time, he added—'That a quantity of pebbles, taken from the adjacent rivulets, were then mixed with it, which, from his description, formed a kind of amalgam not unlike pudding-stone, and then thrown into wooden *encaissemens* or cases, placed where the walls of the house were to be erected; that those cases being only six feet in length, three in height, and one and a half in width, they were under the necessity of removing them as the building extended; which, when finished, gave it the appearance of free-stone; that they again beat or mixed the clay when put into the cases, in order to bring it to a consistency, and to accelerate its drying; that likewise, prior to the walls being quite dry, it was

customary

customary to lay on two or three coatings of quick lime and plaster, with a few handfuls of salt mixed together; but if they were desirous of giving a yellowish or greyish hue to the outside, a small quantity of ochre or burnt straw, reduced to powder, and mixed with water, was then added:"—a simple manner of painting *al fresco*, which not only serves as an admirable deception, but delights the eye.

'The peasantry of this province, being mostly proprietors, each possessing a small piece of land which they can call their own, these *chaumières* are numerous, and are profusely scattered on this wide surface, which extends for miles, sometimes on the edge of a forest, at other times on the side of a meadow, or at the foot of a rivulet: whilst the green turf, variegated with aromatic flowers and the bright tints of aquatic herbs, diversify the scene, and give the whole plain an appearance on which the eye delights to repose.'

In the same style, our traveller soon afterward depicts the romantic little village of Cerdon, through which the road passes:

'Conceive a formidable mountain, now and then rising in a perpendicular direction, sometimes appearing as though shelving over the road, ready to detach pieces from its craggy sides; at other times, a stupendous rock, presenting itself unexpectedly to the view, as if to bar the passage; and now an impetuous torrent, sweeping down the steep its foaming waters, dashing them precipitately from rock to rock, seeming so dispute the pass, and to put a stop to all further progress, while it fills the mind with a mixture of awe and terror.

'But how quick the transition to other sensations! for Nature soon resumes her milder features, and displays an aspect of placid beauty.'

The author notices the manufactories at Nantua for gauzes, taffetas, stockings, nankeen, (an imitation of the Indian,) callicoes, and chintzes; and in passing Ferney he pays a tribute of praise to the beneficence of Voltaire, who raised this village from poverty and misery to an industrious, opulent, and comfortable neighbourhood. We shall pass over the civil history of Geneva, which occupies more space than the reader may expect in a tour of a professed naturalist: but, as its inhabitants are rigid Calvinists, and as various remarks have been lately offered respecting the mode of observing Sunday, it may at least gratify curiosity to learn the manner in which the Genevese pass this day:

'The taste for rural amusements among the Genevese (says Mr. B.) is such, that after public worship on the Sunday, the city becomes as it were deserted, the major part of the inhabitants engaging in various excursions,—some forming parties on the lake; others in parties in carriages, or on horseback, visiting the neighbouring villages; while others take provisions with them, or else depend on

on the adjacent cottagers for their repast, who receive them with a politeness and civility which go not unrewarded.'

The city gates are kept open an hour longer on Sunday than on other days, in order to allow for the return of these parties.

In the vicinity of Geneva, is a mountain of curious construction, called the Dôle. After having described its figure, and the direction of its strata, Mr. Beaumont delineates the bird's-eye view which its summit presents; and he informs us that it is the custom (but he is unable to explain the origin of the practice) for the young people of both sexes, who reside in the environs, to assemble on its top on the first two Sundays in August, where they amuse themselves with dancing, leaping, wrestling, and other feats of activity; the shepherds who inhabit the Jura supplying them with all kinds of *laitage*, prepared in various ways, besides fruit, cakes, &c. We should gladly extract this account, and the affecting anecdote with which it concludes: but we must reserve some space for the remaining contents of the volume.

Of all the towns in Switzerland, the traveller seems to have been most delighted with *Vevay*. 'This charming spot (he observes) is most enchantingly situated on the banks of the lake (of Geneva): its streets are wide, the houses tolerably well built, and the town is infinitely more agreeable as well as commercial, than Lausanne.'

As we have already intimated our opinion respecting Mr. B.'s geological hypotheses and illustrations, we shall entirely pass over his long chapter entitled 'Observations on the Formation of Mountains in general; and more particularly of those which screen the Lake of Geneva; with their Consequences; in order to explain and elucidate the Origin of the Lake itself;' and accompany him in his visit to the extensive glacier of *Le Valteline*.

'I crossed the Drance of Valsorey, so named to distinguish it from the Drance of Mont St. Bernard, the former taking its source at the foot of an extensive glacier of the same name, though nevertheless a branch of the great *Mer de Glace* or *Frozen Sea*, called *Tzermotana* or *Hautema* by the Vaillaisans. This torrent I crossed, and continued ascending for nine long miles previous to reaching the top of this tremendous pass, and by a road so terrific, steep, and irregular, that no conveyance except mules can be used by travellers; and what is worse, it can never be ameliorated, the snow being in many parts, at all times of the year, permanent. As I by degrees arrived nearer the top of this Colossean mountain, how wild and arid did every object appear! with the exception of a small forest of larch and fir, which I passed through at about two miles from St. Pierre, as if to bid adieu to this last remnant of vegetation; for, besides these, nothing but a few shrubs, birch, and stunted pines, thinly scattered on the dreary

dreary wild, presented themselves around; and they but too forcibly announced, by their languor and wretched appearance, that the region or temperature in which they grew was no longer fit for them. To these succeeded the *rhododendron hirsutum*, and then a short close grass, conspicuous only in that part of the valley where the snow was melted, while moss and lichens were here and there seen in small quantities on the blocks of rocks which surround the road. At last, as I approached the summit, I came to a spot apparently abandoned by Nature. The kind of chaos in which I was, the profound silence that reigned around, interrupted only by the melancholy rumbling of the Drance, which rolls its impetuous waters among tremendous precipices, served to convey sensations of gloom and terror not to be described,—yet at the same time infused such sentiments of wonder and surprize, at the magnitude of the objects, and the singularity of the dreary and terrific scene which spreads itself around for so great a distance, that I became riveted to the spot. Having however reached the top of the Prou (a kind of dale or pasturage, nine hundred and seventy-three toises or 6221¾ English feet above the level of the sea, very nearly filled with fragments of the lateral mountains, where the inhabitants of Orsières and Lides send their sheep to graze during the months of July and August) I perceived, on my left, the spiry summit of Mont Velan, where the snow is perpetual, and the height of which, according to Père Murrith (canon of St. Bernard, a person well known by his literary knowlege, as well as by his extreme tenderness and humanity towards the distressed traveller of the Alps), is one thousand seven-hundred and thirty toises or 11,602 feet and a quarter above the level of the sea. That mountain, which is one of the highest that forms and indeed overhangs, the summit of St. Bernard, serves as a support to the above-mentioned glacier, which communicates with that of Valsorey, and, to credit reports of some chamois hunters accustomed to pursue that animal among the most stupendous peaks of the primitive chain, extends upwards of twenty miles north-north east.'

This picture of frozen sterility is relieved by the detail of an occurrence which happened to the traveller on his first passage of the Great St. Bernard: but this anecdote, though it is well narrated, we must omit. Mr. B. observes of the *Hospice*, on the top of this celebrated mountain, that it is the most elevated *habitation* on the globe. 'Around, all is barrenness and stagnation: it is, however, a spot consecrated to humanity, religion, and hospitality.' He expresses a hope that, whatever changes the religious and political systems of Europe may undergo, the institution on the top of *Mont St. Bernard* will never be abolished.

Elevated as *Mont St. Bernard* is, the altitude of *Mont St. Gothard* must be superior. According to the circumstances discussed by Mr. Beaumont, this mountain appears to be the highest mass of ground on the continent of Europe; and from it the greatest rivers flow in all directions.

'The

'The passage of St. Gothard is probably the only mountain in Europe that is formed by the junction of such a number of long chains of spiry peaks piled one above another, to such an astonishing height, or that gives birth to so many rivers and torrents. For if we begin on the south, we shall there find the *Tesino*, which takes its source on the summit of the mountain, and then empties itself into the Lake Majore and the Po. Eastward, are the three sources of the *Rhine*, which empties itself into the German Ocean; northward flows *The Rheuss;* and westward the *Rhône*, which throws itself into the Mediterranean.'

In traversing Switzerland, Mr. B. gives several traits of the virtuous simplicity of manners prevalent among the inhabitants: but he does not profess to detail amusement of the lighter kind.—His work concludes with the following paragraph, which must impress all his readers with a high idea of his manly and amiable character:

'Nature has been more my study than men; and I have rather endeavoured to trace the tremendous revolutions of the universe, and to mark their effects, than to enlarge on those things which so frequently take place in civil society. I have not however forgotten my species; their history, as far as it came in my way, I have concisely given, and have with pleasure pourtrayed the happiness of simple and uncorrupted society,—a happiness which, though it does not strike in description, and charm men of dissipated manners, is congenial with our nature, and to the pursuit of which the philosophic philanthropist ardently wishes to awaken mankind.'

This superb publication is enriched by an admirable Chart of places connected with the route, &c. by a plan of Lyons, and by beautiful and well executed *acqua-tinta* views of Lyons—of the Remains of a Roman Aqueduct near Lyons—of the Cascade and Lake of Nantua—Do. taking in the Town and Lake Silan—Do. with a Part of the Village of Charris—Loss of the Rhône—Re-appearance of the Rhône—Fort of Cluse—Ferney—Geneva—Versoix—Morges—Lausanne—Vevay.—Saltworks at Bex, Canton of Berne—Bridge of St. Maurice on the Rhône—Martignie, and the Valley of the Rhône—Summit of the Great St. Bernard, including the Hospice or Convent—Sion—Source of the Rhône, and Glacier of La Furca—Ascent of St. Gothard—Hospice on St. Gothard—and the Devil's Bridge. We have also a beautiful engraved title-page, with an appropriate vignette; and a plate exhibiting Voltaire's tomb, and the Inside of the Roman Theatre at Lyons.

Mr. Beaumont's performances supply abundant cause for applauding his ingenuity and perseverance as an artist; and we are sorry to add, after having received so much entertainment, that the narrative part of this work is often blemished by verbosity, and by a redundancy of epithets and expletives.

Some

Some allowance, however, is to be made for a foreigner, and for disadvantages under which his publication may be supposed to labour. *Ubi plura nitent*, &c.

Mooy.

ART. XI. *The Siege of Acre.* An Epic Poem. In Six Books. By Mrs. Cowley. 4to. pp. 127. 9s. sewed. Debrett. 1801.

THE epopee has ever been considered as the most arduous department of poetry; and so many circumstances must combine to produce its perfection, that we are not to wonder if, among the multitude who have attempted it, very few have succeeded. Without enumerating the essential ingredients of a good epic poem, and stating all the rules which in this undertaking ought to govern the muse, we shall deem it sufficient to observe that it should exhibit a complete action, which has a beginning, a middle, and an end; and without which, a composition has no right to the title of epic, and must disappoint the reader. It is evident, therefore, that much depends on the choice of the subject; and writers are often unfortunate in selecting for "the lofty rhyme" a theme of inadequate dignity and variety. Such, we apprehend, has been the case with Mrs. Cowley. Her patriotic ardor, and her admiration of *the Christian Knight*, have animated her to attempt to bestow on the Siege of Acre a degree of epic consequence which the circumstances attending that event, memorable as it is, do not sufficiently create. She has perhaps effected as much as it was possible to perform; and she has certainly manifested proofs of genius: but, in protracting the subject through six books, a frequent recurrence to the same action is introduced; and the Muse, instead of continuing her progress, oscillates like a pendulum. We cannot but commend the fair author's promptitude in celebrating the heroic actions of her countrymen during the siege of Acre, at which the arms of Bonaparte received so effectual and important a repulse: but we wish that she had not thought it necessary to extend the song to so disproportionate a length.

In some remarks subjoined to the poem, Mrs. C. thus speaks of her own efforts:

'The series of facts which the preceding poem has enumerated, it will have been seen, are faithfully copied from the public letters of the English Officer who conducted the Defence of Acre. The French accounts differed in some points from his, but who could hesitate on which of them to rely? From the latter, nothing has been taken but the names of some of the French Officers who were slain before Acre; and the hint of *one onset*, (the only one they have recorded,) headed by Bonaparte himself.

'With trembling inquietude I venture to place in the hands of the Public, a Poem, on one of the most important passages of a War, which

which has stretched its hideous form over two thirds of the globe. The subject forced itself to my pen—I could not resist it; and could I have communicated to my pen the glow with which the Siege impressed my imagination, I should have less to fear for the reception of the Poem; but to perceive and to describe are two distinct operations of the mind. Some poet more justly gifted for the task, may perhaps snatch the WAR OF ACRE from my pen, and *adorn* the subject; if so, I at least shall deserve the praise of having called his attention to a task in which he ought to have taken the lead.'

In order that this composition might more completely resemble the epic models, Mrs. Cowley has inserted two episodes:

'If apology (says she) should be necessary for having introduced two Episodes of imagination, in a work meant to be purely historical, this only can be offered—that they grew out of the subject. It may be almost assumed that there never was a Siege which lasted more than two months, in which some interesting *family event* did not take place, in consequence of HUSBANDS and FATHERS becoming Military Men. Elcanor and his Daughters just serve to give an abstract idea, of the relative situation of the Christian towns, in the mountains of Syria. Can it be supposed that Christian Fathers were *not* roused; and that the Females of their families did *not* endeavour to seduce them from their duty, from an acute sense of their personal danger?'

In the commencement of the poem, Mrs. Cowley invokes *Imagination* as well as the *Historic Muse*, and unites affecting representations of the bloody consequences of war, with all the details which have been given of the siege and defence of Acre. These events the reader will not expect us minutely to follow: but we shall enable him to judge how far this female Bard has succeeded, by selecting a few extracts.

The beginning of the siege is thus described:

'The open'd Gates the Corsican demands,
He found sustain'd by firm and haughty bands.
ACHMET PASHAW whose life of oft told years,
On his wan brow and sunken eye appears,
Whate'er the *crimes* or virtues of his heart,
From an insulting foe disdain'd to start.
THE SIEGE BEGAN in all its horrid form,
War flings its lightnings and awakes the Storm!
Untir'd the Echoes of its thunders roll,
Start from the Line, and vibrate at the Pole;
Load the meek Zephyrs of the humid Vale,
Sieze the strong pinions of the Mountain gale,
The tale of blood to peaceful regions bear,
And give to SAFETY's Couch the thrill of fear.
Close to the Beach the English Ships were moor'd,
And o'er the Foe their CAPTURED Cannon roar'd;
Well poised, each bore upon the Gallic flank,
Hurling Destruction through a prostrate rank:
Thus on themselves their own dread thunders fall,
And FRANCE destroys *her Sons* at Acre's Wall!'

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The approach of the English fleet is thus related in the third book:

'Lo! 'midst the toughest struggle of the fight,
Sudden, like Summer streams of midnight light,
When the blue Oceans of the Air infold
Electric flakes, and wave phosphoric gold,
The English Ships return'd towards the Mole,—
Beneath their keels the bending waters roll!
Soon as waked Zephyr had his locks unbound,
And rapid breezes fill'd the Region round,
The Britons caught them in expanded Sails,
And chain'd the vagrant Genius of the gales—
The fate of *Acre* ever in their view,
The gale's most rapid volumes slowly flew!
Her spires at length come forth, her Domes arise,
Her green-roof'd Palm-groves press upon their eyes;
They see th' embattled Plain, the shudd'ring Towers,
The distant space their straining glance devours.
Rough beat the Sea; no anchorage they find,
False the loose bottom, and averse the wind,
Yet still they grandly rode upon the wave,
Shouting aloud, We come! We come to save!
Th' inspiring cry was felt where Leb'non towers,
And CARMEL heard it in her lofty Bowers,
The way of NAZARETH received the sound—
We come, We come to save! its Echoes breathed around.'

In the fifth and sixth books, we have the following picture of the conflict between the assailants and the besieged; with the victory which crowned the generous and valiant interposition of the English sailors:

'Rowing at distance in the shallow Bay,
The Boats of HASSAN * slowly made their way
Surcharged with Troops. The hour was big with fate,
All might be lost, and he arrive too late!
The Tower half fallen, choaked the subjacent trench,
And made a *sloping pathway* for the French—
The TIGRE's † CAPTAIN, with commanding Eye,
Sees where the danger, where the hazards lie;
Lands his brave Sailors instant at the Mole,
From either Ship;—both Crews a valiant whole!
A glorious rivalship swell'd ev'ry heart,
Almost without command away they start—
Rush'd through the open Postern, arm'd alike,
Each bearing in his hand a glitt'ring Pike;—
Shouting their thanks, the Syrians round them throng,
And hail them, SAVIOURS, as they pour along;

* The Turkish Admiral,
† The ship commanded by Sir Sidney Smith.

Prompt, to the shatter'd Tower the English fly—
Their loud huzzas transpierce the wakening sky;
The foe beneath, aghast, astonish'd move,
As the bold Sailors waived their hats above!
Indignant! down they tear THE FLAG OF FRANCE,
And to the Earth the tatter'd rag elance!
'Daring, yet awed, th' Invaders climb the Breach,
And all who come within a Sailor's reach,
Felt the strong purchase of his ready Pike,
Within the breast, or through the Helmet strike:
Nor do the Syrian weighty missiles fail,
With which each rising Hero they assail,
These, and the Pikes sustain an equal part—
That bends the Neck, this penetrates the heart;
They reel, and, tumbling down the slope, impel
The next advancing on the last who fell;
The Plain below continued fresh supplies,
And dread successions steadily arise!
So when deep Seas amidst their Caverns wake,
And boiling billows, billows overtake,
Their curling tops the frothy Monsters throw,
Against some jutting Rock's impending brow,
The Rock, disdaining the presumptuous foam,
Strikes Wave on Wave, and sinks them to their Tomb.'—
'The crowded Towers of ACRE seem'd *all Eye*,
To trace the routed Legions as they fly.
No more their *wasted Camp* Day's streaks disclose,
Or on the Night the sullen watch-word flows,
No Out-post with deep tone demands *qui vive?*
No Pickets hid by somb'rous Shades, relieve;
The distant hum, the clang of arms, is past,
And Eve and morn resume their rights at last.
SIDNEY! with Bonaparte's latest sigh,
On *Thee* He'll bend his intellectual Eye,
Confess from THEE, *deserved*, his shatter'd Fame,
His flight inglorious, and his wounded Name!'

The poem concludes with describing Sir Sidney Smith's departure from Acre, and the gratitude expressed by the inhabitants to their deliverer:

'The BRITISH CAPTAIN now forsakes the Plain,
His stately Bark bounds o'er the distant Main;
Ten thousand blessings follow from the Shore,
And ACRE weeps when the tall Mast's no more,—
Still keep its course upon their straining Eyes,
As with applauding Shouts they fill the skies.
With fond regret his footsteps oft they tread,
Invoking joys on their DELIVERER's head;
Point out where first he moor'd—where first he stood,
When leaping from the tumultuary flood,

Speak

Speak to their Children of his air, his voice,
And shew the *Home* distinguish'd by his choice!
Thus, when pale Pestilence afflicts the Earth,
And ev'ry breeze gives fresh Distemper birth,
Health's Angel, sent from Heaven, on balmy Wings,
Elastic, through the Empyrean springs,
Her rosy pinions fan the boundless Way,
Touch bordering systems, and o'ertake the day;
Earth's chrystal atmosphere her feet arrest,
Sublime she stands! by gelid airs caress'd.
Thin golden cobwebs the BRIGHT VISION fold,
And purple vapours round her form are roll'd,
Reposed on these 'midst craggy clouds she glides,
And o'er the regions of the tempest rides,
Bends to the Shores which the Destroyer wastes,
And steady through th' infected æther hastes,
On suff'ring nations her blest vial drains,
Supplies new strength, and mitigates their pains:
Her task perform'd, the HEAVEN-SENT darts away,
Bearing to other Realms her healing ray,
And as she quick recedes, a shining train
Of ling'ring, precious lights, will long behind remain!'

From these specimens, the reader will perceive that this work is by no means devoid of poetical merit: but, if some of the lines had been altogether omitted, such as,

'Not to be rash, and to make certain sure,'

and if others had been *touched and retouched*, the acknowleged talents of Mrs. Cowley would have gifted it with stronger claims to the fastidious critic's unalloyed applause. S/ Moo.y.

ART. XII. *Upon the Visitation of Neutral Vessels under Convoy;* or, an impartial Examination of a Judgment pronounced by the English Court of Admiralty, the 11th June 1799, in the Case of the Swedish Convoy; with some Additions and Corrections. By Mr. J. F. W. Schlegel, Doctor and Professor of Law in the University of Copenhagen, &c. Translated from the Danish, under the Inspection of the Author, by Mr. de Juge, into French, and thence into English. 8vo. pp. 187. 4s. sewed. Debrett. 1801.

ART. XIII. *Remarks on Mr. Schlegel's Work upon the Visitation of Neutral Vessels under Convoy.* By Alexander Croke, Esq. LL.D. Advocate in Doctors' Commons. 8vo. pp. 157. 4s. sewed. White, &c.

OUR very able and learned countryman, the present Judge of the Court of Admiralty, having submitted his celebrated decision in the Swedish cause "not only to the examination of his

fellow-citizens, but to that of the citizens of other countries," Professor Schlegel has accepted the invitation, and has descanted on various points laid down in that judgment. Dr. Croke has since come forwards as the vindicator of the Court in which he practises, and has combated the objections of the Danish Jurist. We shall lay before our readers the views of each Advocate respecting the matters in debate, as stated by himself.

The following account of the Armed Neutrality in 1780, and of the reception which the object of it experienced on the Continent, will give considerable insight into the nature of the present dispute between Great Britain and the Continent:

'The principles which the contracting parties reciprocally bound themselves to observe by this treaty, were, 1st, That the cargo of a neutral ship, though enemy's property, cannot be taken, unless the vessel should be laden with a larger quantity of articles contraband in war (*contrebande de guerre*) than necessary for its voyage. 2dly, That no merchandizes should be considered as contraband of war (*contrebande de guerre*), but such as are directly destined for the use of war. 3dly, That nothing should be carried into the port or city of one belligerent power while blockaded, or shut so closely by the ships of war, or batteries, of the other nation, that a merchant-vessel could not attempt to enter, without ostensibly running the risk of being taken.

'These articles were communicated by formal declarations of the Northern Powers to the Belligerent Powers, as also the firm resolution which they had taken to maintain them by force of arms. France, Spain, and Holland, formally approved of them in their answers. Great Britain answered in an equivocal manner, considerably modified its instructions, and appeared to yield in silence to the necessity; its Court of Admiralty was more cautious, and less prodigal of arbitrary judgments, except in cases where the ships taken belonged to the subjects of a State unprovided with a naval force sufficiently strong to command respect to its flag. The other States engaged in maritime commerce, such as Austria, Portugal, Venice, Tuscany, Genoa, and the Pope, declared themselves by ordinances, or treaties, in favour of the same principles.'

Dr. Croke, speaking of the same transaction, observes;

'The Northern Powers, taking advantge of the distresses of Great Britain, thought fit to legislate, not only for themselves but for the whole world, and to proclaim that, notwithstanding the acknowledged practice, and notwithstanding the sacred obligations by which two of them, in particular, Sweden and Denmark, were bound to Great Britain to maintain that Law and Practice, they were determined that mankind should be governed by a totally new Rule, to be supported by a hostile force calling itself a Neutrality.'—

'Are we then to understand, that if three or four Nations, acting against their own most solemn and public obligations, take upon themselves by a special agreement, to alter the whole course of the

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Politic Law of Europe, that this is a pretension the legality of which is not to be disputed even by those who are most severely affected by the proposed alteration? Is Mr. Schlegel prepared to admit, that if Great Britain, confessedly the greatest Maritime Power in Europe, and two or three other confederate States, were to covenant with each other that the most momentous changes should immediately take place in the Public Law of Europe, that all Europe is bound to respect their authority, and to take the Law as they think fit to dispense it to the world, in consequence of their own separate bargain? Is there nothing of inconvenience and injury in this? nothing of an unwarrantable assumption of supremacy amongst coordinate and independent States, alarming to the repose and liberty of Europe? Surely it can never be maintained that this is a legitimate exercise of power, which is to command the consciences and understandings of the rest of mankind. Can it be matter of reasonable doubt that no such pretension can be maintained without the most offensive aggression against the common liberties of Europe, and that the State which rejects and resists it is entitled to the common gratitude of every other State in it? This would be the case, even if these contracting States had stood firm to their engagements, and had contrived upon the proffered bribe of some occasional advantage to engage the concurrence of some other States of Europe: but, when the fact notoriously is, that this legislative combination of Powers in the northern corner of Europe have abdicated their assumed functions, and that they themselves have since acted, in the conduct of their own wars, upon principles directly the reverse of what their modern agreement purported; who can say that such an agreement, so framed and so abandoned by the very Powers which were parties to it, is entitled to be received with any other feelings than those of derision on the part of other Maritime States, who only hear of it at a distance, but who nevertheless are expected to obey it? For the proof of the assertion that all these three States have notoriously receded from the terms of this Convention in their own practice and public Declarations, I desire, for the purpose of saving unnecessary trouble to my readers and myself, to refer to the Letters of SULPICIUS, particularly Letter V. I only beg to observe in what a situation the Public Law of Europe would be if it could be validly altered by the Convention of 1780—That Convention, to all effect abandoned by the very States which were parties to it in the compass of a very few years;—and, after an intervention of several years of a contrary practice on the part of those very States, revived only by a Treaty bearing date the 15th of December 1800, within a few days before or after this Treatise of Mr. Schlegel's was communicated to the world—Will Mr. Schlegel pretend to say that this recent Treaty of Russia, Denmark, and Sweden, binds Great Britain, or any one other State of Europe? If he does not, I call upon him to state, in precise terms, what is the proposition he really means to maintain with respect to the authority of such Conventions?

'Is it a possible thing for three Powers at Peace, by any agreement amongst themselves, to enact that a belligerent Country, no party to that agreement, shall not exercise those rights which belong to it in

that character by the General Law of Europe? Is this an act of competent and just legislation, or is it not an act as invalid in its authority as it is injurious in its effects?'

What constitutes contraband in war? Let us hear Professor Schlegel:

'This law—*the neutral flag covers the merchandise*—being become prevalent and general in the last century, it was established at the same time, that no neutral vessel should be laden with merchandises which immediately, and in their present state, might be employed in war; such, for example, as gunpowder, artillery, arms, and other military stores. These are the only merchandises which were at first comprised under the name of *contraband in war* (*contrebande de guerre.*)' —

'It is true, that the English, availing themselves of the preponderance of their marine, to do still greater injury to their enemies, have constantly strove to extend, as far as was possible for them, the denomination of *contraband in war.* They have pretended that we ought to comprise under this name, not only that which is *immediately, and in its present form, for the use of war,* but also that *which is susceptible* of being converted to that use, and which may be equally employed by *peaceable individuals* as by *the belligerent state.* It is thus that *timber for building, masts, cordage, hemp, pitch,* and *tar,* and even *provisions,* are become the objects of their prohibitions.'

Let us now attend to Dr. Croke on the same subject:

'What is to be the extent of the catalogue of Contraband, it is not necessary, nor indeed possible, for me to discuss, it being a subject of vast legal extent and minute detail, connected with Treaties, with History, with Decisions, with Public Declarations and Ordinances of States, and with the varying Usages and Practice of Warfare. Thus much I conceive to be settled upon the best opinions and most received legal practice,—That the direct instruments of war are all contraband and liable to interception; that where Treaties have determined that other goods shall be contraband, those goods become so by virtue of the agreement; and therefore, that to Mr. SCHLEGEL, a subject of Denmark, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, and all Shipbuilding Materials, are contraband, if carried to the enemy of Great Britain—although Mr. SCHLEGEL has been led, by the example of his country, to treat with levity, and even to question the obligation of, an existing Treaty, by which his Sovereign bound himself, and every subject of his crown, to the Kingdom of Great Britain, by his Royal Faith, publicly plighted in the face of Europe, no longer ago than in that very year 1780.—Where no such Treaties interfere, it is certainly the doctrine of the British Admiralty Court, and, may I add, of reason and common sense, that the usages of war must have a great influence in determining upon the contraband nature of different articles, and that the specific catalogue of contraband for the year 1260, would be an imperfect guide for a decision in the year 1801, upon any such matter:—that since the Wars of Europe, and particularly those of its Maritime States, have become principally naval, the materials for the equipment of hostile fleets are

liable to be so considered, where not protected by particular Convention, or subjected to that moderated right established in favour of native produce of a forcible preoccupation and preemption. These are their doctrines, and these they think they can maintain, not by authority of Roman Emperors or Pontiffs, (though both their systems of Laws may have deep foundations in the wisdom of man, and may have supplied many excellent rules for the conduct of civilized States) but by appeals to just principles of reason, to the accredited opinions of venerable men, to the acknowledged legal practice of Christian communities, and to the indefeasible rights of natural self-defence; and they think they administer a system of law, so founded, (and it is their conscientious purpose so to administer them) that every practicable tenderness, consistent with these public purposes, shall be shown to the interests and convenience of the individuals who may happen to become the objects of their jurisdiction. It certainly may occur, that, in particular cases, judicial vigilance may slumber, and that some decisions may improvidently escape; but when this is admitted, (as it undoubtedly must be) what more is admitted, than that these Tribunals are governed by men, and partake of the common infirmities of all human institutions? At the same time let me caution Mr. SCHLEGEL against the eager facility which he has been rash enough to indulge, with respect to the unfounded calumnies, which he has admitted into his book, against the practice of the Court of Admiralty. I need not remind a Professor of Law, that unjust censure loses nothing of its malignity by being directed against Courts of Justice, and that the common interests of mankind require from every person, and particularly from those who are conversant in the business of such places, that the reports of disappointed and disgraced parties should be very cautiously received, and still more cautiously propagated.'

On the question of neutral ships under convoy, Professor S. observes:

'It has been seen, that according to the treaties, the right of visiting vessels not under convoy, extends only to the examination of their papers; and that, if they are regular, the privateers are forbidden to visit the cargo. But as in this case, the belligerent power has not in favour of the legitimacy of those papers, any other warranty than the *public faith* in the name of which they are delivered, would it not be contradictory to admit as sufficient, the declaration of the neutral state, in the case of a vessel *not escorted;* and to regard it as suspected, when, by the presence of the escort, and the testimony of the officer who immediately represents the sovereign, it has acquired the most imposing character of which such acts are susceptible?

'If the accusation, and even the mere suspicion of advancing a falsehood, of committing or favouring a fraud, be serious insults between individuals, shall such proceedings be admitted, or without any consequence, from state to state? From this circumstance alone, that two states are at peace, does it not result on the contrary, that for all which is within their respective competence, they ought to

acquiesce reciprocally in their declarations, clothed in the form required to render them authentic? To declare publicly, doubts of the truth of such declarations, is to attack the honour, to violate the right of the power from which they emanate. To make these doubts a foundation for violating its jurisdiction with force, is an act of hostility which, though even it should not be followed by war, cannot but leave remembrances both with that power, and all others who find themselves by the act menaced with the same violence.'

Dr. Croke's remarks on this point are as follow:

'The introduction of force amongst parties calling themselves friends, and a force ready to be employed, if a pretension, which is at least known to be disputed, is not immediately submitted to, is as like absolute hostility as any thing can be, that calls itself by the pacific titles of neutrality and friendship. What is to be the consequence? Pufendorf has answered that question in a very few words; "ad manus perventum est, UT SOLET."—The destruction of lives and property is the usual and the necessary consequence; for in truth the whole business is neither more nor less than that of the parties putting themselves in a state of absolute hostility, every time that a cruiser and a convoyed squadron happen to meet. The loss of the lives of innocent persons which took place in the last rencontre between the Danish frigate and Captain Baker is no more than what must unavoidably take place on every such occasion. Can this be the natural or legal state of Neutrals and Allies relatively to each other? One of the parties who occasion this unnatural and illegal conflict must be most grievously in the wrong; for acts of bloody violence amongst friends must unquestionably be wrong; and the only question can be, Which is the wrong doer? Whether that nation which advances the pretension, having no Treaty on which it can claim it; or the Nation which, standing upon the general Law, resists it? And let me observe, it is a question which the parties ought most seriously to put to their own consciences; for the peace of the world, and the lives and properties of individuals are suspended upon it to an infinite extent. Dreadful is the responsibility of that Country, which, either by advancing unjust pretensions on this matter, or by resisting just ones, produces that effusion of blood which is almost sure to follow upon the collision of such claims. It ought not to be on slight grounds that any subject of either Country should take up an opinion that may have its share in contributing to such an effect: prudence and humanity equally forbid it. If I am right in the principles which I have laid down, it is a question, though of most momentous extent in point of possible effects, yet of the utmost simplicity, and of as little real difficulty as any that can occur in the moral casuistry of Nations.'—

'Such are the probable effects of this pretension, if it meets with the resistance which is naturally to be expected, and which in truth it anticipates in the very act of sending an armed force. On the other hand, what will be the consequence of its obtaining a general acquiescence and establishment? Neither more nor less than a total abolition

abolition of maritime capture in war; a consequence hardly disavowed in the views and intentions of this Writer, who sets off with a complaint which is not unfrequently heard in the world (though perfectly false in fact), that private property upon the land is protected from all exercise of hostility, whilst at sea it is still subject to *depredation* and *plunder*; for so this class of writers denominate all acquisition of property *jure belli*, although it is a title as antient and as legitimate as any that is known to law or reason in the practice of mankind. Taking it, however, to be an existing grievance, a more efficacious cure could certainly not be proposed. Because no man can seriously doubt, that, if this principle be once established, not a particle of the enemy's property on the sea will be left liable to capture. The commerce of France will be just as secure and prosperous during a war as in peace; she need not be ever under the necessity of employing neutral merchantmen; if she will only pay the small expence of a neutral convoy duty, her own ships may traverse the seas with perfect impunity; for, according to this new doctrine, nobody has a right to examine them. It is to be remembered, that the flag of one State, and of one armed vessel belonging to it, is just as good as that of another; in the legal enjoyment of such a privilege, the magnitude of the State or vessel makes no difference; the flag of Ragusa, or even St. Marino, placed on a petty chaloupe, is as good a legal escort as the proudest banners of Russia or Spain, waving over the stern of a first rate man of war. I need not describe the use that will unavoidably be made of this; every man's own reflection will determine its extent at once. Mr. SCHLEGEL has cautioned me against any suspicions injurious to the good faith and honour of great Governments; I beg to refer him to an anecdote or two respecting the use that has actually been made of this assumed right by one of the greatest Maritime Powers in Europe. In the year 1656, the celebrated Vice Admiral De Ruyter, after lying some time in Cadiz, sailed from thence for Amsterdam with several merchantmen under his convoy. He was met in the Channel by some armed ships of England, then at war with Spain, which insisted upon search; but upon De Ruyter's declaring "that there was not any thing in the fleet that belonged to the King of Spain," they desisted, and parted good friends. Yet, after this solemn declaration of a commander who stands so high in the annals of Maritime Fame, it was afterwards proved, that there was an immense treasure of silver on board these vessels, belonging to the King of Spain, and his subjects in Brabant and Flanders, which De Ruyter had assured them he would transport in safety. And so important was the service to the enemy, that, if this money had not been conveyed, the King of Spain would not have been able to have brought his army into the field.

'The other example occurred in the same year. A Dutch fleet, consisting of near fifty merchant ships and several men of war, came into Torbay. The greater part of them were bound for Spain. It appeared upon the subsequent examination of witnesses, that three of the frigates belonged to the enemy, but wore Dutch colours the better to surprise the English; and that a good part of the cargo

was

was Spanish property. Captain Pley sent his boats to search them. The Dutch commander at first absolutely refused, and afterwards only permitted a slight search in the Captain's presence. But though notice was given to him of the information that had been received of their being Spanish property, he refused to allow any further search, hoisted the red flag, fired a gun of defiance, and sailed away; and though some of the vessels were taken, all the Spaniards, and the goods and ammunition laden for Spain, arrived safe under protection of the convoy.

'When he has considered these anecdotes, and, to his own satisfaction, got rid of their effects by imputing them to the unenlightened judgments of a preceding generation, (the constant resort of the Writers of the modern school,) I will venture to add the following circumstances, which are notorious in the recent conduct of some of these greatest States in Europe—That during a great part of the present war, Bergen and Christiansand, two ports of Norway, have been the constant, stationary, encouraged haunts of numerous French privateers, which have sailed out from thence to prey upon the British merchantmen trading to and from these very ports, and other ports in the dominions of the same Prince—That in these very ports sat a French Consul, with all the visible insignia of a recognized authority, prepared to give the finishing stroke to these most unnatural captures, by formal sentences of condemnation, pronounced, for the first time that the world ever saw, in a country calling itself Neutral—That in spite of all the remonstrances which our country could urge, against a practice which made Bergen equal in mischief to twenty Dunkirks, it was inflexibly maintained, till a sentence of the British Court of Admiralty overthrew the pretended validity of such proceedings—That when the French Government published an edict, conceived in the most extravagant spirit of injustice, devoting to confiscation all cargoes (together with the vessels that contained them) which were composed in any part of goods of British produce and manufacture, these Great Neutral States not merely submitted in silence to this crying act of injustice, but permitted (I believe I might say with great truth, *authorized*,) their subjects to go before the French Consul of their ports, there to give an active obedience to those edicts, by making sworn declarations that they had nothing to do with Great Britain; and that there was not the value of a hair on board their ships of British growth, produce, or manufacture, or that had ever paid duties at a British Custom-house—That when the mad project of an attempt on Egypt was executed, near a hundred Danes and Swedes and other Neutral vessels were impressed into the service of transporting their troops, without producing, as far as the world has ever heard, a single murmur of remonstrance, and still less any movement towards an Armed Confederacy: but strange to tell, that when one of these ships, so hostilely employed, had been captured by a British cruizer, the slumbering resentment of the Court of Copenhagen was immediately awakened, and broke out into the most inflamed complaints of this act of hostile aggression. I mention not these particulars for the general purpose of showing what Neutral conduct is in the opinion

and

and practice of some great States, (though sufficient to show that, notwithstanding loud clamours, Great Britain is much more sinned against than sinning), but merely to illustrate how far the political morality of such States might be depended on in the use of such a privilege, if Great Britain conceded it. I repeat, without meaning either compliment or invective, that from that hour maritime capture is totally abolished.'

From these extracts, the reader will be able to form some idea of the nature of this contest, and of the respective abilities and attainments which are displayed in the progress of it. To those who are desirous of fuller information, we must recommend a perusal of the pamphlets at large. The work of the Danish Professor contains much information that is applicable to the subject on which it treats, but it displays no acuteness, and is very deficient in method; while the production of the English civilian is distinguished by characteristic solidity and precision. The doctrines circulated on the continent are certainly not derived from the law of nations as hitherto received: but those on which Britain acts are to be found in all the writers on this question. Whether it be competent to civilized states, by a majority of suffrages, or in any other way, to reform the code of the laws of nations; to introduce new regulations with respect to the treatment of neutrals; to extend or contract their privileges; and to enlarge or diminish the catalogue of what is denominated *the contraband of war*; are points open to discussion, but which are not properly the subjects of present controversy. It is not here inquired what *ought to be* the law of nations, but what it *has been*, and what it *is*. Those who are versed in the above law, and even those who will take the trouble of perusing this work of Dr. Croke, will have no doubt left in their minds, that the members of the Northern convention first set on foot in 1780, and renewed in 1801, acted beside that right; and that all their proceedings were so many infringements of it. Whether the treatment of neutrals, as at present warranted by that law, be consonant to abstract principles of public right; and whether it be so important to the interests of the British Empire, as it has been deemed; we perhaps entertain some doubts;—but at the same time we must acknowlege that the perusal of Dr. Croke's reply has somewhat diminished them; and we shall not venture to state them, after the anathemas which, in the conclusion of his work, he has hurled against those who, belonging to Great Britain, question any article of the political creed of which he is the champion. Before we perused his work, we had been of opinion that the science of the law of nations, as applicable to maritime war, was very imperfect; that the

subject

subject was quite new; and that, till it should be considered very much at length, and regularly digested, the questions which now agitate Europe could not be resolved:—but the advocate of the right of searching neutral ships would lay an embargo on the right of free inquiry into this subject.

Jo.

ART. XIV. *Mémoire Justicatif de la Conduite de la Grande Bretagne*, &c. i. e. A Memoir in Justification of the Conduct of Great Britain, in seizing Foreign Ships and Warlike Stores destined for the American Insurgents. 8vo. pp. 106. 3s. 6d. Bickerstaff. 1801.

THIS Memoir shews that the complaints against the conduct of our cruizers, and the proceedings of our Admiralty Courts, are neither new, nor confined to the nations of the north. It is understood to have been the production of Sir James Marriott, who was formerly at the head of the British High Court of Admiralty, and is now introduced by the following

'PREFATORY NOTE, *by the Editor.*

'This Mémoire Justificatif was printed at the expence of his Majesty's then government: it was never published to be sold, but only circulated by the late Lord Dover, then Sir Joseph Yorke, at the Hague, and to all the maritime neutral courts, with great success. The general question was at that time, as now, vehemently agitated, and as little understood, or perverted. But a short proposition was to do the business, and equivocally to be taken for granted. "*Free ships make free goods*," is a short maxim never doubted; but neutral ships quâ merely neutrals are not free: ships, free by treaty, only make free goods: to assert any thing more, is to say, that nor France, nor Great Britain, nor any other *Belligerent whosoever*, shall stop and search. Commerce on the sea shall be as free as air; shall finally destroy the profitable carrier; trade itself, by all neutrals hitherto non-belligerents, becoming involved as actual belligerents and immediate allies, coming into the war to assist the weakest power in a maritime contest, and even that power which, when it was not then in despair, at the lowest pitch of its naval efforts, had, among its other most severe regulations, publicly declared to all neutral maritime nations, that the manufactures of its enemy should not only be considered *primo intuitu*, as the property of its enemy, but *infect* even neutral property. What a proud and daring presumption! to interdict its opponent *aquâ et igne*, if third parties will be so pleased to submit to be dictated to concerning their own wants! The crisis has now arrived to a more comprehensive evil than in the years 1778 and 1780; and the whole world is set on fire; so that it has been thought necessary to give this Justification more publicly to the attention of every understanding, in the circles of political or commercial society. It contains a regular series of argument upon all points whatsoever of the general question of privileged ships, and does not rest upon the single case of reciprocal assistance, stipulated upon a supposed pro-

 bability

bability of the fact of invasion; a *casus fœderis*, which some people insisted did not exist. It should seem as if there is no justice nor reason in the world but the ultimate reason of all sovereign force and power, and that the despotic genius of foreign governments and the avidity of men are to prevail universally, who in truth have no country, and no character: who, not being able to reside under any one constituted authority, fly from place to place, eager if possible to avoid their creditors and better their own situations, although they at the same time scatter flaming torches. Interest perverts the understanding and hearts of men; and for this reason so little is it understood or admitted with what an honourable partiality the British Constitution has marked the bounds of right and wrong in the distribution of public justice, both to foreign subjects as well as to its own.

'This Memoire contains every thing that can be desired to be known concerning the process in a British High Court of Admiralty, of which complaints have been so unjustly made, and which have been listened to too easily.'

These courts of public judicature undoubtedly labour under great difficulties in the administration of justice intrusted to them. In the cases which come before them, the testimony of indifferent parties is scarcely ever attainable; and all their proceedings are founded on a sort of cross examination. The present Memorial details the methods and rules of adjudication followed in the British Court of Admiralty; and no one who reads these pages will think that better could be framed, in order to attain the ends of justice. The application of them, as in all other cases, must depend on the integrity and ability of the judge; and the high degree in which these qualities belong to the gentleman who now fills that situation, in the Admiralty Court of Great Britain, is acknowleged far beyond the limits of the country to which he belongs. Loud and general as the murmurs of neutrals are, the impartial man who reflects on the constitution of our courts, and the characters of those who preside in them, will feel himself obliged to admit that these complaints must, in many instances, be made without foundation. If there be any ground for them which can be removed, we hope that no time will be lost, and that no labour will be spared, to accomplish an improvement which it will be so much for our interest and our honor to effect.

Two publications, by Mr. Ward of the Inner Temple, on the Rights of Neutral Nations, and on Contraband, have lately reached us: but we have not yet had time to peruse them.

Jo.

ART. XV. *The Works (never before published) of Jeanne-Marie Phlipon Roland*, Wife of the Ex-minister of the Interior; containing her Philosophical and Literary Essays, written previous to her Marriage; her Correspondence, and her Travels. To which are added the Justificative Documents relative to her Imprisonment and Condemnation. The whole preceded by a Preliminary Discourse, interspersed with Notes, illustrative and explanatory, by L. A. Champagneux. Translated from the French. 8vo. pp. 339. 7s. Boards. Johnson. 1800.

THE English public, which generously sympathized with and relieved the distresses of the emigrants from France, also admired the talents, acknowleged the virtues, and pitied the sufferings of a strong revolutionary partisan, Madame Roland. Genius is of no country, and of no party; it belongs to the world; and sooner or later it always receives the homage which is due to it. The pens of catholics have often done justice to the elegant mind, the mild temper, and the gentle manners of Melancthon; to the eloquence of Calvin, and to the moderation and integrity of Usher. High churchmen and Tories have been contented to derive no small share of their reputation, from their commentaries on the works of a republican poet; and even Dr. Johnson did not hesitate to admit, in private, that Hobbes was to be ranked among the most correct of English writers, though his puerile bigotry did not permit him, in his Dictionary, to refer to that author's works. We feel no participation in the religious and the political opinions of Madame Roland; and, had she lived longer, we believe that she herself would have qualified and corrected them. We regret, indeed, that she ever interfered with politics; and it would have been much happier for her and for the world, if she had given her attention solely to letters, in which she was singularly qualified for distinction. She had projected the composition of memoirs of her own times, in the manner of Tacitus; and the specimens of that undertaking, which she has bequeathed to us, are very favorable indications of the success which would have attended it.

M. Champagneux has introduced this volume by a preliminary discourse, which contains many interesting particulars respecting the character, the attainments, the life, and the death of his heroine. From this memoir we should have made several extracts, had we not presented our readers with so full an account of this singular female in our reviews of her *Appeals to Posterity*, in the Appendixes to the 17th, 18th, and 19th volumes of the M. Rev. *New Series*. (See also vol. xxiii. p. 112.) We here find an anecdote relative to Brissot, however, which is new to us, and is perhaps not generally known.

known. In a conversation which passed between Madame Roland and M. Champagneux respecting that unfortunate man, while he was in prison in the Abbey;—

" He is confident," said she to me; " he sees not that the fury of his enemies can be glutted only by his blood. He must be apprised of this: it is a cruel attention, I admit; but Brissot, the most ardent apostle of liberty, must not be stabbed in the dark. He has useful truths to tell his contemporaries, and important lessons to give to posterity; he must fulfil this task: it will be sweeter to him when he is invited to it by me."

' Madame Roland soon executed her resolution: she presented the cup to Brissot in a letter which she read to me, and in which she combined all that is most sublime in philosophy and friendship. It is a loss not to be able to recover this letter, in order to give it a place in this collection.

' The exhortation of Madame Roland produced its effect. Brissot wrote some Memoirs, to which he gave the name of his *Testament politique;* those who have read them, consider them as far superior to all that had hitherto come from Brissot's pen. Events had tempered the fire of his imagination, and enlightened his ideas by the torch of truth and misfortune. This last production, exempt from enthusiasm and passion, was, on that account, but the stronger in wisdom and judgment. Brissot had there pourtrayed the situation of France in colours so true and so glowing; he had so completely torn off the mask from the tyrants who oppressed her, that the downfall of their power became the infallible consequence of its publication.

' Already had the work passed the gates of the prison: already did its impression ensure a very early appearance, when Robespierre, who was informed of it, and who foresaw its terrible effects, contrived to destroy the whole edition, and even the manuscript. Thus the labours of the unfortunate Brissot became useless to his own glory, as well as to the safety of his country.'

The readers of the former memoirs of Madame Roland will be curious to learn the fate of her only child, Eudora. The present introductory discourse informs us that she married one of the sons of M. Champagneux, that she lives in tranquil retirement in the country, and that she has already become the mother of a family.

It has often been remarked that the partiality of friends, the avarice of booksellers, and the ill-judged curiosity of the world, have frequently occasioned the publication of the manuscripts of eminent persons deceased, by which the fame of the authors and the interest of letters have suffered. The observation is well-founded; and though it does not precisely apply in the present case, we are not justified in stating that any great merit belongs to the miscellaneous volume before us, as a whole; since it is chiefly to be valued on account of scattered passages, on which the reader of taste and discernment will dwell with

pleasure.

pleasure. We are here brought acquainted with the fair writer in her younger days: but her infant productions, though they furnish the greatest promise, are not exempt from the faults incident to that period. By the side of passages which, in more advanced life, she could not perhaps have exceeded, we find those which impressively proclaim the age of the writer. The story of Dulitot, however, in the paper intitled '*The Bandeau of Love*,' forms a glowing picture, taken from the life. Of the other fugitive pieces, we shall particularize only a few.

At the age of sixteen, Mademoiselle Phlipon (the maiden name of Mad. R.) investigated the abstruse subject of *The Soul*; and the following passage forms a part of her disquisition:

'The fibres of our nerves, distributed as so many small nets, terminate on the one hand on the outside of our members and in the skin, and on the other, they all unite in the brain. When any thing strikes them externally, the impression is communicated to the brain, and according to the different modifications which it experiences, the soul perceives and judges of the object that is the cause of them. But to explain how the soul sees these things, how ideas are formed in it, how a spiritual substance distinct from the body, perceives what passes in another substance, these are things above our efforts, and which probably we can hope to know only in another state; for, to say like Leibnitz, that all this is done according to a harmony pre-established between the soul and the body, by which it is determined that the one must experience a certain series of thoughts, when the other experiences a certain order of sensations, is to convey no certain information, and even none at all; this happens no doubt from the laws of the union which God has established between these two substances; but these laws are to us unknown; we are not better informed respecting the manner in which this is effected, and we must modestly acquiesce in an invincible ignorance, which has continued such to the present day.'

Among some reflections *On Old Age*, written in the year 1777, we meet with remarks which are calculated to serve the cause of morality and of the human species:

'It seems that Nature has granted the privilege of being old without sorrow, after having gathered all the flowers of spring, to those only whose useful autumn ripens and trains up beings that are to supply their place.

'The crown of hymen and the paternal sceptre, are the consolatory and glorious attributes of the man and the citizen; they dignify his life and gladden his heart. The sweet testimonies of filial love and gratitude support happiness in his enervated soul; his enfeebled eyes dwell with satisfaction on these cherished shoots that surround him with eager affection; the active attentions of tenderness remove or diminish the evils of decrepitude; and his last breath is gently exhaled, like the balmy vapours of flowers, gradually dried up and withered by the evaporation through which they are exhausted.'——

'When

'When the powerful hand of time imprints on us the wrinkles of age, blunts the senses, absorbs the vigour of their mind and body what would be able to charm and dispel the grief of falling into decay?... Remembrance and hope; the testimonies of a soul without reproach; the hope of a future state; these are helpful aids which soften the declivity by which we descend to the grave; they embellish the road by the attractions of the prospect, and make us resign ourselves to the arms of death, as quietly as to those of sleep.

'Amiable hope, why should I refuse to enjoy thee!

'In the phlegm of argument, I doubt almost of every thing, I absolutely reject several; but as soon as feeling warms my imagination and dilates my heart, I wish for a God, for a soul, for immortality. The desire I have that they may be, persuades me that they are; I feel the force of the objections that may be made to the contrary, and I would willingly compare it to that gleam of a bright flash of lightning which shews the horizon for a moment, only to replunge it all at once into the most profound darkness.

'The habit of speculations, and the indifference they inspire, very frequently throw my mind again into the scale of doubt, but the habit of the prejudices of infancy has still more power; the obligation of preserving these prejudices to outward appearance, incessantly retraces and renews the deep impressions which they formerly made. I feel myself hurried away towards the general declivity; it is so easy to give credit to that which flatters.

'The idea of an excellent being completes my happiness; I love to think that a beneficent Providence superintends the order of the great machine; I hope to have him for my perpetual witness; I love to believe that he interests himself about human nature, and wills all the good that I desire. Firm in my conduct, uncertainty often agitates my mind; then, without bearing up against it, tranquillized by my intentions, I follow it till something fixes me. It is the flexible reed which, yielding to the efforts of the winds, dreads not their impetuous blast.

'To make our actions compensate for our faith, appears to me a sure mean to avoid regret; if we never reach conviction, we miss not happiness; it always accompanies our sincerity with ourselves, and our docility in listening to sound reason. A man of an upright soul, inclined to scepticism, feels himself bound to an exact and rigid virtue: without the practice of the greatest justice, he would be afraid of having thrown off the yoke only from a culpable desire of giving way to his inclinations without restraint. This severity sometimes brings him back to persuasion: it is so pleasant to believe in a remunerator whose favour we labour to merit!'

Had Madame R. pursued the walk of moral philosophy, it would scarcely have been said that she followed the most able of her predecessors *haud passibus æquis.* She thus concludes her essay *On Liberty*, written in 1778, at the age of 24:

'I leave metaphysical reveries and political speculations to the more able, I prefer what more nearly concerns action, and I think that is my element. I understand by liberty of mind, not only that sound

view of an enlightened judgment which is not disturbed by prejudices or by passions, but also that firm and tranquil temper of a strong soul, superior to events. I call it philosophic, because it is the fruit of wisdom and one of its most unequivocal proofs; it is under these titles that I regard it as a treasure. I add, that I am determined to labour to acquire it; nothing is more true or more easy. With reason sufficient to appreciate things at what they are worth, we may suffer ourselves to be affected too warmly by some of them, for want of having contracted the habit of conquering ourselves by courageous and daily exercise. The same vivacity of feeling which on many occasions elevates us above ourselves, often sinks us again below our level, by the frequent revolutions of which it renders us the sport.

'The empire over ourselves is the finest of empires, that of which the conquest costs us most, and the possession of which is the sweetest. We think we have done much when we have familiarized ourselves with austerity, let us speak more correctly, with grief; it seems that it is it which, acting on our organs in the most immediate manner, must principally disturb the liberty of the mind. Yet if it be true that the value which we attach to things makes almost their whole importance, and that the force of ideas and the power of imagination are capable of diverting us from the actual impressions which they make on our senses, it must be acknowledged that physical evils are not the most dangerous for an elevated and delicate soul. It is not precisely in undergoing such and such trials, that our courage is manifested, but it is in supporting the loss of what is dearest to us, and this too is where it generally fails.'——

'Reason, virtue, every thing draws these ties the closer: if cruel necessity chance to break them, what dreadful torments! The disorder of the body is nothing; the rigours of fate scarcely deserve to be mentioned; but in the pains which proceed from the heart or which strike at it, I can do no more than wrap up my head and waste away in silence. O sensibility! delight and torment of our days, how much do thy sacrifices exercise and fatigue our philosophy! It is with the greatest justice that has been established, as the first principle of happiness, that secret enjoyment of virtue, which consists in the recollection of having done well, and in the resolution of continuing to do so; beyond that, every thing is full of illusions and falsehoods, and the sweetest accessories to this first pleasure are crossed by poignant and bitter afflictions. Where is the man who has learned to content himself with this satisfaction and dispense with every other? His felicity is independent and unchangeable: that is the true sage and my hero; he alone can preserve perfect liberty of mind.

'We have so perverted the use of the blessings bestowed on us by nature, that we have reduced ourselves no longer to find, but in their voluntary privation, the peace that ought to accompany them.

'We must love mankind sufficiently to concern ourselves about their welfare, and esteem them so little as not to expect any return on their part.

'Judgment appears to me to consist in discovering that we can accomplish our own happiness only in labouring at that of others; reason

seems to me the firm resolution of acting always agreeably to this principle; the highest degree of virtue, is to do good with enthusiasm, because it is honourable and delightful. Sublime delirium, by which the exalted soul finds unheard-of strength, and puts itself on a footing with the gods! Happy he who knows its transports and renders himself worthy of ever enjoying them! Exact calculation and cold reasoning never make us capable of doing so; it belongs to feeling alone to inspire us with them. Reflection sometimes damps the ardour of our efforts, as repose cools courage; in point of morals, as soon as we are certain of having adopted the best, we must follow them blindfold. But it is to the fascination, to the enchantment of virtue alone, that it is allowable to subject the liberty of the mind.'

The descriptions of the excursions made by this extraordinary woman are worthy of her, but they bear evident marks of the haste with which they were written. Her account of England, (which she visited in 1784,) and of its inhabitants, rather errs on the flattering side: but we shall pass over this narrative, as imparting no information to the English reader, and proceed with Madame R. in her visit to Switzerland. This excursion was designed for the benefit of her husband's health; and the fair writer performed it under so many disadvantages, that the observations which she was able to make are only sufficient to convince us, that a finished tour of that enchanting country would have been very acceptable from her pen. We shall extract a few remarkable passages:

'The continual prospect of the Alps has, perhaps, much more influence than is imagined on the character of the people who live in their neighbourhood. A rugged landscape naturally renders the spectator serious; grand scenery awakens attention, and disposes us to reflect; the image of great revolutions and the idea of their return become connected, and revive the remembrance of each other; we feel the weakness of man compared to such effects, and this affection strengthens all the feelings which soften or charm existence. We wish for a Providence of whom we stand in need; we dread every thing that appears to threaten, and we melt at every thing that seems to smile on us. These habitual dispositions must produce melancholy tempers, perhaps incline men's minds to superstition, render their hearts sensible, and make them cherish a domestic life; for a prevailing sentiment attaches us to all that nourishes it, and the imagination, habituated to objects which exalt it, no longer bears to be diverted from them; its wants are confounded with those of the heart, and become equally imperious.'——

'I now began to take my leave of those majestic Alps, of those secret vallies where I could so much delight to ramble. What cold soul could ever, without emotion, contemplate these sacred spots where the little passions are silent, where the strength of reason and the fire of sentiment approach each other, and become allied from the simple effect of the purity of the elements and the grand spectacle of Nature! How often will my imagination, snatching me away

from tiresome or painful scenes, transport me into those retreats, in order to recal the impressions which I have there received, and the charm which they add to every thing good, wise, and happy, that I know in the world!'——

'The contrast between a stay at the foot of the Alps, near the glaciers, and that in the rich and polite house of St. Urbain, is striking, and sensibly felt by travellers.

'On the one hand, it is Nature majestic, harsh, and wild, awful to the senses, inflaming the imagination by sublime pictures, and reviving the remembrance only of truths or analogous sentiments; on the other, it is the sweets and the charms of cultivated understanding, of pure and easy manners, of peaceable life, of comfort and of the fine arts. At *Lauterbrunnen*, an enthusiast of the beauties with which I felt enraptured, I regretted not having it in my power to satiate myself with them at leisure; at *St. Urbain*, the friend of an agreeable society, I should have forgot myself there for several days in hearing sensible conversation and excellent music. Alive to the charms or advantages of very different situations, I have often said to myself, that happiness was less rare than the faculty of enjoying it wherever it exists.'

The writer's powers of contrasting appear in the succeeding paragraphs:

'Adieu to the spouting fountains, well trimmed quickset hedges, verdant pastures, pretty gardens, and their little fences, surrounding modest, neat and convenient habitations; here the villages are thinly scattered, and their poor and dirty houses announce only the abode of the clown, reduced to one of the most miserable conditions of the human species. Such is *Fessenheim*, where we stopped to dine: very happy to find a few eggs, which we ate on the corner of a table where two dogs sat opposite to us as guests: while the master of the house was getting himself shaved, and two carters were sharing a piece of rusty bacon, which they seasoned with conversation as delicate as their food.

'Our eagerness to shorten our route made us, in the evening, avoid *New Brisac*, which is a quarter of a league from the road, in hopes of finding a place to sleep at; but we were obliged to return as we went, and gain this fort, which would be agreeable in its way, if a fortified town, which is merely that, could be so. But these fortifications kept in good order, with their immense walls and their triple ditches, their verdant glacis and their eternal linear sameness, those large esplanades, those vast places of arms where nothing is to be seen but uniforms, soldiers very stiff, with their muskets shouldered, where nothing is to be heard but drums and oaths; but those barracks very similar, and those small private houses which resemble them, all that display of order and destruction, of uproar and misery, penetrates me with disgust and *ennui*.'

We shall close this article by observing that those who read the various compositions contained in this volume will not doubt, that Madame Roland added to talents which are extra-

ordinary,

ordinary, and to attainments which are rare in her sex, a love of virtue and a benevolence of disposition which are equally distinguishing and laudable.

The translation is very indifferently executed. Jo.

Art. XVI. *A Praxis of Logic*, for the Use of Schools. By John Collard. Small 8vo. pp. 251. 5s. Boards. Johnson. 1799.

The author of this work has presented to the world two other publications on the same subject. The first appeared under the assumed name of Dralloc *; and the second † was a new and improved edition of the former. Of the latter, we are here told that it 'received the approbation of many characters celebrated for learning and intelligence;' and, adverting to its title, "*the Essentials of Logic*," the author thus proceeds to describe the present performance:

'That publication introduced me to a correspondence with some gentlemen of literary eminence, at whose request I was induced to attempt the formation of this Praxis, and to whom I am obliged for many useful hints. The *Essentials of Logic* comprehended the principles of this system at large, compared with the various forms of syllogistical reasoning, including the doctrine of ideas, mode, substance, definition, &c. This piece contains the reduction of those principles to practice, or in other words, a practical application of the theory to familiar language. In this piece, which was written purposely for the use of schools, I have entirely omitted the doctrine of ideas, mode, substance, and definition, because I am convinced that boys should immediately exercise on the praxis, and that that those subjects which depend more on the powers of reflection will be introduced with greater advantage in the practical progress. For the vagrant thoughts of youth, which are for ever making flighty excursions from the consideration of any fixed subject, can never be sufficiently confined in the first instance to contemplate the subtile objects of metaphysical abstraction.—The praxis here offered, is not a theoretical fabric depending on a few unexplained axioms, but a practical system built on the language of the day, not illustrated by fabricated examples, but by the characteristics which language itself has assumed, and needs no other explanation than a distinct exhibition of those characteristics. It may be proper however to remark, that the detail of this system is necessarily so concatinated, that the knowledge of every preceding, is absolutely necessary to the comprehension of almost every subsequent period. Thus, the reader must not expect that he can understand any detached part, without having regularly proceeded from the beginning.'

It is the material and essential office of logic to discriminate between mere words or sounds, and the ideas which are to be conveyed by them. It deals not so much in words, as in *things*

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* See M. Rev. vol. xx. N. S. p. 206. † Do. vol. xxiii. p. 478.

and *ideas*, of which language is the vehicle; and we cannot perceive that this book would be of use any farther than as this is its tendency: but certainly this *is* its tendency, though it may prescribe more than is perfectly requisite. It is much to be wished that the juvenile mind should be gently taught to use its faculty of thought and reason, and, if it be possible, to direct it right; which, without doubt, is the design of the present writer. There may be danger that a mere mechanical method either will not inform, or will lead astray. Many youths may have laboured with perplexity and difficulty among *major*, *minor*, *predicate*, &c. who have afterward been very able to reason well, as knowlege and observation increased, and to discover that these terrifying terms were not so formidable nor so significant as their first aspect seemed to indicate.

The work before us bears evident marks of the author's attention and diligence. We believe, as he says, that 'he has spared no pains to render the analysis obvious;' and we think that, when his readers understand the technical phrases, his performance may prove a very useful assistant in comprehending more clearly and fully the sentences and paragraphs which fall under their notice: while it may also enable them to reason and to express themselves with greater exactness and energy. 'Some, perhaps, (he observes,) may think that I have been too minute: but let it be recollected that this work, which I believe comprehends all the propositional and rational combinations of our language, is still (exclusive of the exercises) shorter than any treatise that has ever appeared on the subject.'

We are inclined to add that it appears somewhat questionable to us, whether the criticism (p. 223.) be just, which charges Dr. Johnson with inaccuracy in a passage cited from the preface to his Dictionary. Inaccuracies may doubtless be collected from our best writers, but it is certain that he is not guilty of the pleonasm of saying that a *large* work is *large*; and it is true that a work, because it is *large*, is therefore difficult. Who does not allow that a thick folio is more troublesome in its composition, as well as more cumbrous in its size, than a volume in twelves? Hi.

MONTHLY CATALOGUE,

For JUNE, 1801.

AGRICULTURE.

Art. 17. *Uniting and monopolizing Farms plainly proved disadvantageous to Land-owners, and highly prejudicial to the Public:* to which are added several Observations, shewing the Causes of the present high Prices of all Kinds of Provisions. By John Lewis, of East Bergholt.

Bergholt. The third Edition, with Additions. 8vo. 2s. Printed at Ipswich, and sold by Longman and Co. London.

THE first edition of this pamphlet was published during the scarcity of 1767, when wheat averaged 3l. 4s. 6d. per quarter; and it is mentioned by us in M. R. vol. xxxvi. p. 321. Some judicious observations are now annexed in the form of notes, by Mr. Bransby of Ipswich. It is urged by Mr. Lewis, and reiterated by his annotator, that the system of consolidating several small farms under one occupier tends to diminish population, to increase luxury among the farmers and poverty among their labourers, and on the whole to produce great national injury.

To remedy the unprecedented evils of the present time, Mr. Bransby recommends inclosures, regulations in the circulation of paper currency, a maximum price of grain, and the distribution of estates into small parcels. He allows that difficulties would attend the execution of these plans; and, regarding war as one of the causes of high price, as well as of scarcity, he looks forwards to *Peace* as the best cure of our evils. "When will her dilatory kingdom come?" Moo-y.

Art. 18. *The Appropriation and Inclosure of commonable and intermixed Lands:* with Heads of a Bill for that Purpose: together with Remarks on the Outline of a Bill, by a Committee of the House of Lords, for the same Purpose. By Mr. Marshall. 8vo. pp. 88. 2s. 6d. Nicol. 1801.

When Mr. Marshall's long experience and very extensive knowlege of rural affairs are considered, his thoughts on this subject must be deemed of some value; and when it is known that the contents of the pamphlet before us are the result of some months' close application, by means of which he has 'gained his own confidence, and feels himself on firm ground,' the public will no doubt be solicitous of profiting by his matured and well-arranged reflections.

Mr. M.'s object has been to furnish materials for a general law of appropriation and inclosure, on the principle that 'whatever benefit or proportion of benefit, any claimant has a right to receive while the lands remain unappropriated, or open,—to a similar part or proportion of their value he is entitled under their appropriation or inclosure;' and he has endeavoured, in the various clauses of his proposed bill, to provide for every case that may occur. He does not recommend an indiscriminate appropriation and inclosure of waste lands, but only of such parts as will pay for the expence; well observing that much land is not worth inclosing, especially when divided into small parcels; and that some proprietors have been seriously injured by being *obliged*, in pursuance of some ill framed private bills, to inclose land of this description. He mildly reproves the owners of manors and tithes, for being so much on the alert in searching for "'vantage ground" on the present occasion; and he is of opinion that they should lower their claims, and encourage inclosure, for the purpose of promoting the extention of agriculture in this island: which has no reason for boasting of its prosperity, till it can completely feed itself, and throw off its dependance on foreign countries for the staff of life. D.o

EDUCATION.

Art. 19. *The Youth's infallible Instructor;* for the Use of Schools, comprising in seven Parts, the different Degrees of Literature necessary to complete an English Scholar. By W. Card, Schoolmaster and Mathematical Professor at Hythe. 12mo. 4 Vols. 6s. 6d. bound. Lee and Hurst, &c.

The first of these volumes is called the *Moral Speaker*, and resembles numerous other publications which have issued from the press. The selection, in prose and verse, is on the whole suitable and proper; but the names of authors are often omitted. In the catechetical exercises at the close, we might object to the definition of religion, (*religion is that which binds,*) although agreeing with the Latin word; Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, if the writer went no farther, might have helped him to a better explanation. We might also except against some accounts of the different divisions in the Christian church:—how can it be said, as at p. 142, that the Church of England 'denies election and predestination?' or how, as in a note, p. 143, that the 'Baptists are divided into three classes, viz. *General*, *Particular*, and *Pædo-baptists?*' This betrays ignorance, or inattention.

Vol. II. commences with a spelling-book, containing 1120 lessons of six words each, which the scholar is to learn in course; and, by the assistance of a Dictionary, to discover the parts of speech to which they belong, their meaning, &c. A grammar is added, relative to letters, syllables, stops, marks, abbreviations, &c. &c. in which we find some good and useful remarks and rules, together with defects; as for example, at p. 229, the word *wrote* is used for *written*.

The Third Volume presents a regular grammar, together with syntax and prosody, all of which appear to be properly and commodiously arranged. Some miscellaneous chapters are added at the close of this and the preceding volume; and at the end of the present the author finishes an address to his pupils, which had been begun in the first part of the work: it is religious and moral, grave and affectionate: if in some instances respecting *behaviour* it may be regarded as *minute*, it is certainly on the whole highly worthy of their careful attention.

Vol. IV. is confined to figures, or 'compendious rules, examples, and questions, through the whole of vulgar and decimal arithmetic.' It contains much useful, though not uncommon, information, and may afford assistance both to the master and the scholar.—The remaining parts, which complete this undertaking, have not (as we understand) yet made their appearance.—This performance is rather ostentatiously announced to the public as the Youth's *infallible* instructor: but that it is not without defects is sufficiently apparent; while we also readily acknowlege that it has its advantages. Hi.

Art. 20. *Moralist;* or, amusing and interesting Dialogues, on natural, moral, and religious Subjects, calculated to afford rational and improving Entertainment to the ingenious Youth. 12mo. 1s. 6d. Boards. West.

This title conveys a proper idea of the nature of the work; the design of which we much approve, and the execution of which is also, on the whole, worthy of commendation. The author directs the

the youthful attention to subjects of morality and religion; and at the same time we apprehend that his own remark is just, when he says in the preface,—'I believe in these conversations, the sprightliest turns cannot be charged with levity, nor the most solemn with dulness.'—We hesitated at first concerning the dialogue which concludes the volume, relative to Christianity, and to those doctrinal mazes in which so many have bewildered themselves and others, as we doubted whether it would be quite proper for such early discussion: but, on re-consideration, we consider it as sensible, useful, and pertinent.

In some parts of this performance, passages are judiciously selected from the sacred writings, which can hardly fail of attracting regard, and contributing to pleasure and improvement. In these selections, we have remarked a few variations from the translation of the Scriptures in common use, which indicate a critical attention to and knowlege of the subject. Hi.

Art. 21. *Natural History, for the Use of Schools;* founded on the Linnæan Arrangement of Animals; with popular Descriptions in the Manner of Goldsmith and Buffon; illustrated by forty-six Copper-plates, representing one hundred and fifty of the most curious Objects. By William Mavor, LL.D. &c. 8vo. pp. 392. 4s. 6d. bound. Phillips. 1800.

This assiduous compiler here extends his useful labours in a new line. The authors to whom he has principally resorted are mentioned above: among these, Goldsmith is too well known to be defective in natural history *: but Buffon ranks high in the class; he is original, scientific, inquisitive, industrious, and exact, except when he resigns himself to the excentricities and vivacities of a brilliant and deceptive fancy; and perhaps, as Dr. Mavor remarks when complaining of his want of method, it may be said that 'his labours, as a whole, exhibit rather a beautiful chaos, than a well-executed structure.'

Dr. M. gives a brief analysis of different schemes formed by those who have been most eminent in this branch of science, among whom Pennant is distinguished: but the Linnéan arrangement, as improved under the care of Professor Gmelin, is chosen for his guide in the present collection and abridgment. He expresses his wish that, for the sake of science, Mr. Pennant had been less frequent in his deviations from Linné; and, since it is desirable that, to prevent confusion, one system should be preferred and followed, it may be best to select that which is recommended by so great a name. The volume thus composed is entertaining and instructive, calculated at once to gain the attention of youthful minds, and to improve them.

Among the astonishing varieties which stock the sea, the air, and the earth, none seem more naturally and agreeably to attract our notice than the feathered race; and their peculiarities, instincts, habits, &c. afford much room for speculation and amusement. Of some it is said, and no doubt with truth, that they are very injurious to man, by depredations on his property: yet instances have been observed, in which these supposed hostilities have on the contrary been friendly to

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* See M. Rev. for April, 1775, vol. lii. p. 310.

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his interest, by destroying what might otherwise have proved highly noxious to the fruits of the earth.—The little Wren has been stigmatized as pernicious, in plucking the fruit-buds, while the beautiful but saucy Bull-finch has escaped censure; yet we have been somewhere told that the former merely picks up the worm by means of which the rising germ would have perished, while the latter totally eradicates and flies off with the whole. Even as matters of *curiosity*, it might be agreeable to have accounts of this nature clearly ascertained; and, as points of *justice*, they ought to be decided.—The Goat-sucker, falsely so called, here receives the name of the *Churn-Owl*; and notice is taken of its loudest notes resembling the noise of a large spinning-wheel: of which Mr. Polwhele *, in his History of Devonshire, farther remarks that they give a very sensible vibration to any little building on which the bird chances to place itself.—Under the article Sturgeon, we do not find it recorded that this fish supplies isinglass, which later writers have mentioned, particularly Mr. Tooke, in his account of Russia and the Caspian sea.—We have not room for farther observations, and can only repeat our approbation of this performance.

Art. 22. *The Grammatical Play thing;* or Winter Evening's Recreation for Young Ladies from four to twelve Years old. By Mrs. Eves, Crescent School, Birmingham. 8vo. pp. 65. with a Box of Counters, &c. 6s. Marshall, Seeley, &c.

Sanctioned by the opinion of Mr. Locke, and others, that learning may be made a sport and recreation to children, Mrs. Eves has contrived a game, to be played with a board and counters, for the purpose of teaching young ladies the rules of grammar. In the mode of conducting this diverting business, Mrs. Eves, in the character of Mrs. Friendly, discovers a happy art of instructing her pupils; and by playing with them at pools of *nouns*, pools of *verbs*, and pools of *particles*, &c. she familiarly explains to them the several parts of speech. In boarding-schools, and in families in which there are several young children under a governess, this game may form a pleasing recreation: but it is necessary that the person who performs the part of Mrs. Friendly should be well-instructed, and that she should possess some patience; for, though this be represented as an amusement, it cannot become so without knowlege; and the pupil must learn to distinguish one part of speech, and one gender, person, case, mood, and tense, from another, before a grammatical pool can be played with ease.

LAW.

Art. 23. *A Treatise on the Construction of the Statutes,* 13 *Eliz. c.* 5. *and* 27 *Eliz. c.* 4. relating to voluntary and fraudulent Conveyances, and on the Nature and Force of different Considerations to support Deeds and other legal Instruments, in the Courts of Law and Equity. By William Roberts, Lincoln's Inn. 8vo. pp. 700. 14s. Boards. Butterworth. 1800.

This is a production of very considerable merit: but the nature of the subject prevents it from being interesting to many persons, and

* See M. Rev. for March, 1798, vol. xxv. N. S. p. 279.

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in course deprives us of the pleasure of enlarging on its contents in a work which is addressed to general readers. The thanks, however, of a liberal and enlightened profession, for the assistance which they will derive from Mr. Roberts's labours on a difficult and abstruse topic, will be an adequate compensation for the diligence, the sagacity, and the judgment which he has exercised on this occasion.

The author is aware that 'his choice has not afforded him the pleasure of expatiation in a province decorated and systematized by learning and ability. It is new and adventurous, and points to a path of enquiry, in which there are few guides to direct diligence, and but little precision to assure the judgment. It is upon the difficulty, therefore, of his subject, that the writer founds his claim to the benignity of the profession.—He has felt the impossibility of extracting pure science and perfect system from the opinions of great men pronounced at distant periods, under the influence of the different modes of thinking, which social and political changes produce, and obscured by the very imperfect manner in which it has been often their lot to be reported. It has been his endeavour, therefore, first, to vindicate in himself the right of free examination, by displaying the contradictoriness of great opinions, and then, from the reasonings and data which those opinions furnish, compared with the general maxims of our common law, to draw out a result which might connect in correspondence and consistency the greater and more venerable part of our legal authorities.'

Such is the plan which has been pursued by Mr. Roberts in the present volume. In his preface, he has introduced the case of *Nunn* against *Wilsmore*, B. R. E. 40 Geo. 3. reported in the eighth volume of the Term Reports; because the opinion of the Lord Chief Justice delivered in that proceeding embraces a very considerable number of the points discussed in this performance.

We gladly receive the following information from the preface, in which 'the writer ventures to announce his intention of prosecuting his investigations through all the branches of his subject, which have yet escaped the zealous researches of methodical industry; among which he proposes to include an arrangement of the decisions upon the law of *fraudulent devises*, and the *great statute of frauds and perjuries*. Whether or not he shall persevere in what he has with great timidity begun, must depend upon the credit his present work may find with the profession.'

These subjects are very important, and a judicious treatise on them would confer an essential obligation on the public. Mr. Roberts has shewn, in the present volume, that he has talents and professional knowlege sufficient for the undertaking, and we trust that he will meet with adequate encouragement.

S.R.

Art. 24. *A practical Treatise upon the Law of Annuities*; wherein the different Securities for Annuities, and the Remedies for the Recovery thereof are fully exemplified. Together wish the Determinations of the Courts on the Construction of the Annuity Act. To which is added a large Collection of Precedents, drawn and accurately settled in the Course of Practice, and adapted to every Species of Property that can be made an effectual Security for

for an Annuity; with Memorials thereof, whereby the same may be prepared with Ease, Precision, and Dispatch. By Robert Withy of Craven-street, Solicitor. 8vo. pp. 550. 10s. 6d. Boards. Butterworth. 1800.

Few statutes have ever occasioned so many decisions as the stat. 17 Geo. 3. c. 26. commonly known by the name of the Annuity Act; and a collation of the cases therefore became useful, if not necessary, to the profession. As, however, this had already been done by Mr. Hunt, in an accurate and faithful manner, there was no occasion for the first part of the present performance: but the other part, which is by far the most considerable, consisting of a vast variety of precedents, will probably afford assistance to those who are engaged in this branch of conveyancing.

Though Mr. Withy has twice mentioned the case of *Mouys* against *Leake*, B. R. M. 40 Geo. 3. reported in 8 T. R. p. 411. he has not noticed the important observations made by Lord Kenyon, respecting the grant of a rent-charge by a rector or vicar, out of his benefice, being void by the stat. 13 Eliz. c. 20. Surely the subject was of sufficient consequence to demand the editor's attention.—On the principle and authority of this decision, we very much doubt whether the precedent No. 17. can be supported; it is that of a grant of an annuity by an incumbent out of a rectory and vicarage, for his life, with a demise thereof to a trustee for 99 years, for better securing the same; with a covenant that, in case the grantor should exchange or be preferred to any other living, he would charge the same in like manner with the payment of the annuity. We think, also, that precedent No. 39. is liable to the same objection. S.R.

Art. 25. *A practical Treatise or Compendium of the Law of Marine Insurances.* By John Ilderton Burn, of the Inner Temple. 12mo. pp. 240. 5s. Boards. Butterworth. 1801.

As this branch of commercial law has of late years assumed a considerable degree of importance, from the number of decisions, and the abilities of the judges who determined those causes, a compendious digest for the use of merchants, notwithstanding former publications, appeared to be desirable. The present compilation was undertaken by its author under that idea; and he has chiefly resorted to Mr. Park's valuable and well-known performance, and to that division of Bacon's Abridgment of the Law (edited by Mr. Gwillim) which treats of this subject. The design of the work is useful, and the execution is creditable to the author. Dº

RELIGIOUS.

Art. 26. *An Attempt to illustrate some of the Prophecies of the Old and New Testament.* By Thomas Zouch, M. A. 12mo. pp. 240. 3s. 6d. Boards. Payne. 1800.

It is an excellent rule that Dr. Henry More has proposed in his theological works, by which to compute the approaching ruin of Antichrist, when he directs Protestants to judge concerning it by the real advances which they themselves make in the spirit and practice of Christianity;—the greater increase there is of such a kind, the more near, he says, they may conclude, is the fall of Antichrist. The crude, the hasty, and, we may add, the ignorant application, which

has been made of Scripture-prophecies to some late memorable events, is justly censurable; and to pass this censure appears to be one intention of the volume before us. The fourth and following chapters treat concerning some parts of the prophet Daniel's Visions. The author also leads the reader back to Jeremiah, and then to Moses, for the prophetic character of the Chaldeans and Romans; whence he brings him forwards to St. Paul's description of the *Man* of *sin*, and to some passages in the Apocalypse.—On the whole, though the work exhibits nothing which, strictly speaking, might be regarded as new, we may consider it as an instructive performance; presenting, in vivid colours, the dreadful effects of bigotry and superstition, and of a tyrannical, domineering, and worldly spirit; particularly as they have been manifested in the enormous pretensions and usurpations of the church of Rome. Antichrist, however, is a general term, and of extensive meaning; and therefore, though popery may be eminently intitled to the distinction of that title, it is very evident that other principles and powers fall within its scope.

In the conclusion, the increase of popery in this country is discussed; and here Mr. Zouch thinks it may 'without impropriety be asked, whether the church of Rome hath not enlarged the number of her votaries?—and with her usual zeal exerted every act of wily policy to extend her influence?' Again he remarks; 'when the establishment of that church is pronounced to be venerable—when it is declared that Protestants and Catholics are divided by thin partitions—when the fabric of Romish idolatry is dignified with the appellation of "the majesty of religion"—when in a neighbouring kingdom a college hath been founded, at the expence of the nation, for the exclusive education of Popish Priests,'—such things have an aspect more favourable to popery than is to be wished.—We have only to add that the zeal of this writer appears to be properly tempered by Christian moderation and benevolence. Hi.

Art. 27. *An Address to Young People on the Necessity and Importance of Religion.* By John Evans, A. M. Master of a Seminary for a limited Number of Pupils, Pullin's Row, Islington. 12mo. 6d. Symonds.

This author, having remarked that the religion of Jesus Christ comes recommended to youth by a number of weighty considerations, proceeds to say,—'To two classes of arguments, however, shall I now confine myself; the one drawn from yourselves, the other derived from your situation and connections.'—This remark may be considered as an outline of the present little tract; which is plain and clear, serious and impressive. In a rational manner, the writer invites the youthful reader's attention to the Scriptures, and to the spirit and practice of religion as there delineated; free from the deceptions, the conceits, and the vagaries, of enthusiasm and superstition. Do

Art. 28. *An Essay, tending to prove that Christianity has promoted the Happiness of Man*, as an intellectual, moral, and social, Being. 8vo. 2s. Mathews. 1800.

That Christianity is calculated to ameliorate the state of mankind, few persons will be hardy enough to contradict. When it is asked, why has not its efficacy been greater, or more apparent?—those, who

who are really acquainted with history, civil and ecclesiastical, will be able to assign causes in reply, which it is not requisite for us to enumerate. Yet, though its intention and energies are more directly of a *private* and *personal* kind, there is just reason for supporting the belief that it has, even by *these means*, been of essential service to communities and nations. To illustrate and establish such a position, according to the three divisions mentioned in the above title, is the design of this pamphlet; and, in our view, the writer has accomplished his purpose.

Having observed the very different aspects of Pagan and Christian countries, the author justly inquires into the cause of so considerable an effect; and he observes:—'The page of history, sacred or prophane, does not furnish one solitary instance of a people, that have, by their own efforts, emerged from idolatry and the immorality that attends it. Had there not existed some cause, then, for this palpable difference, there is reason to presume that the state of society in Europe, would have worn but a similar appearance, in it's similar stages, with the state of society in heathen countries, ancient or modern. Christianity excepted, the page of history makes mention of no phænomenon, adequate to produce this difference. We think it just therefore to consider the Christian religion as the proximate efficient cause of the above-mentioned difference.'

No writer on this topic, who understood his subject, could fail to advert to the slave-trade; and this author accordingly insists on the very material difference between the Pagan and the Christian world in 'the total abolition of slavery in all the Christian countries in Europe.' No doubt, the doctrine of Jesus tends to this effect,—as it also does to put an end to the carnage and miseries of war,—and much it has accomplished: but, when we think of the state of the lower classes of the people in some parts of our quarter of the globe, and when we reflect on the traffic which is maintained in Africa by *European* and *Christian* merchants, we are obliged to make a considerable abatement of the strong phrase, 'total abolition.' – Neither do we perfectly assent to the high applause here bestowed on chivalry, as a product of Christianity; since, whatever honour or utility might in some instances be attached to it, we know that it was chiefly occasioned by superstition and vanity.

The style of this pamphlet indicates that the writer is a man of science; yet it is not perfectly to our taste: it seems to have a degree of stiffness or affectation, and occasionally a little obscurity, which may be the effect of its being too much laboured: while it is also not destitute of some marks of negligence. It is, however, altogether, a studied, useful, and laudable performance; and we shall finish our remarks on it in the author's words; – 'From the whole, I think, we may safely conclude, that the Christian religion has guided to their proper objects, the intellectual, moral, and social powers of man, with a certainty infinitely superior to every other institution.' Hi.

Art. 29. *Thirteen practical Sermons*, founded on Doddridge's Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul. To which are annexed *Rome is fallen*, a Sermon preached at the Visitation held at Scarborough, June 5, 1798, (2d Edition revised and corrected) and

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St. Peter, a Sermon preached before the University of Cambridge, May 4, 1800. By Francis Wrangham, M. A. 8vo. pp. 216. 6s. Boards. Mawman. 1800.

These sermons appear to us to form an attentive and faithful abridgement of the volume published, more than half a century ago, by the ever respectable Dr. Doddridge. That the work was then well received in the world, and has continued in estimation, has been proved not only by testimonies in its favour from persons of different ranks and denominations, but also by its having passed through numerous editions *: it has indeed been, and still may be, useful to numbers, even though they should not heartily concur in that scheme of systematical divinity to which it evidently inclines. The more concise form, in which it now appears, may probably increase its utility; and this, we are convinced, was the design and the earnest desire with which it is thus presented to public notice:—but we may be permitted to ask whether, in p. 140, the full meaning of the original work is exactly ascertained; whether by the phrase *sensitive* pleasure, against which the reader is warned, is not intended the immoderate pursuit of what is considered as innocent, rather than the indulgence of intemperance?

Of the two other discourses which compose the volume, the first has already received from us the approbation which it so justly merited †; the second treats on the character of St. Peter, as affording an argument for the truth of the gospel, and is an useful and seasonable discourse. The notes accompanying each render them still more valuable.

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Art. 30. *A Refutation of some of the more modern Misrepresentations of the Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers*; with a Life of James Nayler. By Joseph Gurney Bevan. 8vo. pp. 124. 2s. W. Phillips. 1800.

Mr. J. Gurney Bevan complains that the doctrines and practices of the Quakers have been misrepresented. 'When the religious society of Friends (says he) first attracted public notice, it had this mark in common with the primitive Christian church, it was every where spoken against. Numerous were the misrepresentations which its enemies poured forth from the press; many of which are now only remembered, or heard of, by the answers which were given to them. Others have still survived, and are occasionally brought forth from their obscurity to answer the purpose of modern malevolence; in which, when they fall into the hands of such as do not know that they have been fully refuted, they are but too successful. There are also some later authors who are not to be suspected of a wish to misrepresent us; but who, drawing their information from unauthentic records, are from time to time adding to the mist with which prejudice delights to keep us surrounded; and causing those who, in their search after truth in matters of religion, might be willing to examine our doctrines in their genuine colours, to turn away

* See Kippis's Life of Doddridge, 8vo. p. 88.——95.

† See Rev. vol. xxviii. N. S. p. 237.

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in disgust from a people, which, viewed through the medium of misrepresentation, appears little more than a heap of deformity.

'We are certainly, compared with the millions of our countrymen, but few in number; the world, in its pursuit of fame, of wealth, and of pleasure, takes little account of us; and the tracts, which, on particular occasions, have been published by our authors, either to elucidate our doctrines, or to defend them, seldom attract notice enough to be much purchased out of the pale of our own Society. It is not therefore always easy to find the means of setting the public right, when we are sure its credulity is abused. Where few are disposed to listen, small is the encouragement to speak.'

This is true: an apologist has at all times an arduous task to perform: but, if people be not disposed to give him a fair hearing, he might as well lay down his pen. The principal writers who, according to this author, have misrepresented the *Society of Friends*, are Mosheim, Maclaine, Formey, Hume, the Editors of the Encyclopædia Britannica, and Wesley; against all of whom he brings charges which impeach, if not their veracity, at least their credulity and their prepossessions. The lovers of truth should peruse this little piece with attention. The Quakers are as much intitled to critical justice as any other body of men; and it is shameful to impute to *any* body of men, tenets which they do not hold, and practices which they disclaim.

To this justification of the society are added a *life of James Nayler*, (which, in our opinion, had better have been omitted,) and a *summary of the history, doctrine*, and *discipline of Friends*. This last is a curious morsel; and we would have inserted it, if we could conveniently have made room.

Art. 31. *The Faith of the People called Quakers, in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*, set forth in various Extracts from their Writings. By Henry Tuke. 8vo. 6d. W. Phillips. 1801.

We believe that the generality of Protestants are very ignorant of the peculiar religious principles of the sect called Quakers. For the information of such persons, to remove the prejudices of others, and from other laudable motives, Mr. Tuke has compiled the present little tract; which appears to us to be executed in a very fair and satisfactory manner.—We shall give his own account of his main object, which he says is threefold:

'To bear, in this age of scepticism and infidelity, when many are swerving from the Christian faith, a public testimony to the coming of the Son of God in the flesh, and to the benefits derived to mankind thereby.

'2. To remove from the Society of which I am a member, the suggestions and imputations of unsoundness in this great point of Christian doctrine, which have at times been cast upon it.

'3. To manifest, by clear and indisputable testimonies, to such of our own members as have not maturely considered the subject, what our uniform and acknowledged principles are; that they may be the more upon their guard against any persons, who may endeavour to draw them from the stability of faith.'

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In introducing the testimony of 'Friends' on this occasion, the judicious compiler brings forwards the names of the celebrated George Fox, Isaac Pennington, William Penn, Barclay the apologist, and others of later date: also the collective sentiments of the society at large, as delivered at quarterly meetings, &c.—Indeed, from their general conduct, and especially considering their strong and truly christian objections to WAR, we cannot but wish, with our late Friend, the good and penetrating WHITEHURST, that ALL THE WORLD WERE QUAKERS!

Art. 32. *A few plain Reasons for the Belief of a Christian.* By Thomas Robinson, M. A. Rector of Ruan-minor, Cornwall. 8vo. 1s. Robinsons.

Being of opinion that infidelity obtains converts among professed Christians, in consequence of their ignorance of the principles and evidences of revealed religion, Mr. R. has here endeavoured to furnish them with a plain and compendious statement of the principal arguments which are usually adduced to establish the credibility of the sacred writings; and his pamphlet is well calculated to answer the purpose for which it was intended. It treats of the different revelations of the will of God—of the reasons for believing the Old and New Testaments—of the reasons for believing the present Scriptures to be agreeable to the original,—and concludes with some additional arguments for believing in the divine origin of Christianity.

By *additional*, Mr. R. means not arguments absolutely new, but such as were not adduced in the former chapters; for he pretends not to novelty, and indeed the subject is scarcely capable of it. He is of opinion that the credibility of revealed religion is established by the concurring testimonies of such wise and good men as Bacon, Newton, Milton, Boyle, Locke, and Addison, who have openly professed their conviction of its truth; and he wishes that every one, who is inclined to doubt on this important subject, would call to remembrance the sentiments of these illustrious men, and consider whether they or he be the most likely to ascertain the truth. This is pushing the argument rather too far. The faith of men eminent for strength of mind, learning, and virtue, should be adduced as a reason why we ought not to decline an examination of the evidences of revealed religion, since such belief affords a presumptive proof of their being satisfactory: but no one should be required to believe from respect for the opinion of another. We are commanded in the Scriptures to *search* that we may believe. Mooy.

Art. 33. *Considerations on the present State of Religion, Speculative and Practical, in this Country.* 8vo. 2s. Hatchard. 1801.

A writer who takes up his pen for the amiable purpose of diminishing religious dissent, and of making the public system as comprehensive as may be possible, will be respected by all persons of generous and noble sentiments: but men who are acquainted with the world will form no splendid expectations from such efforts. Pamphlets recommending trifling alterations in the Liturgy are not likely to meet with any attention; and even supposing that such alterations were made, the avowed object would probably not be attained. If no

objections attached to the Liturgy of the Established Church but such as the author of these Considerations enumerates, viz. the damnatory clauses in the Athanasian Creed,—the epithet "most religious" applied to the King in the Prayer for the High Court of Parliament,—and the form of absolution in the visitation of the sick,—there would be reason for calling on dissenters to give a proof of wisdom and liberality, by generously tolerating these specks and blemishes on a service otherwise irreproachable; and not to plead them in justification of separation. We are of opinion, however, that the objections of Dissenters extend wider and deeper; and that, in the present state of speculative and practical religion in this country, there is little chance of including all professing Christians *in one fold.* All that can be expected is mutual candour. Trifling discussions have disappeared from the controversy; and it is not likely that the serious points at issue will be soon adjusted. We must wait the ameliorations of time.

Moo-y.

POETRY, &c.

Art. 34. *Convivialia et Saltatoria;* or a few Thoughts upon Feasting and Dancing: a Poem, in Two Parts: also a Poetical Epistle in Praise of Tobacco. By G. Orchestikos. 8vo. 1s. West and Hughes.

This writer seems to be a descendant of the celebrated Lucilius, who is recorded to have dictated 200 verses in the space of an hour, standing on one leg. In poetry, however, where negligence seldom fails to disgust, excess of *quantity* makes no amends for deficiency in *quality.* Ease, playfulness, and apparent disregard of rules, when associated with wit, brilliant conceptions, and originality of thought, must unavoidably obtain admirers: but what is called easy and negligent verse, which flows and rhymes, and rhymes and flows, without being enlivened by the sparks of genius, is a species of composition which we critics may be forced to endure, but can never relish. Anstey's New Bath Guide has had a host of imitators, as far as similarity in the construction of the verse is concerned: but unfortunately they omitted the wit and spirit which gave a zest to the original. Mr. Orchestikos, the present dancing poet on the subject of dancing, writes with facility, because he dilates; and he rather discovers a wish to satirize than evinces himself a satirist. The name of the town, in which the scene is laid, it is impossible for us to divine from the poem. The title, indeed, particularly mentions the pamphlet is sold at Ludlow: but we see no description which applies more to this than to any other town corporate, and the public entertainments "thereof." Judge, gentle reader, from the following lines:

'And here now, in Justice, it ought to be said
That the wines were all good, both the white and the red;
And so where all other the liquors beside,
Which their worships—the bailiffs—were us'd to provide.
'The ladies rose up, and—from supper-room—went,
Young and old to the *card*-room, with various intent;
The *latter*, for *money*, now shewing their will,
By a rubber at whist, or a pool at quadrille;

The

The former to *chat*, three or four in a party,
On subjects which caus'd them to laugh rather hearty;
For youth's ever pleas'd with a well contriv'd joke,
Or an amorous tale which concludes with a stroke
Of good humour.'

The poem intitled *Nicotiana*, in praise of tobacco, is addressed to the late William Cowper, Esq. the much admired poet, in consequence of his remarks on the use of tobacco in his poem *On Conversation*. It is prefaced by a complimentary letter received from Mr. Cowper, in reply to one addressed to him by the author with a copy of his poem: but it contains, we apprehend, a mere compliment; since we imagine that those who have read *the Pipe of Tobacco*, in Dodsley's Collection, cannot greatly admire such lines as these:

'The man I pity who abhors the fume
Of fine Virginia floating in his room:
For, if, by Fate, he's doom'd to solitude,
A pipe will cheer him when in pensive mood,
Will help to banish ev'ry fretful thought,
And make him rich although scarce worth a groat:
Rich in himself, contented with his lot,
And thankful to his God *for what he's got*.'

From the last poem, intitled *the Muff*, eight lines also may suffice as a specimen:

'To state the form in which a muff appears,
Would almost be a tedious waste of words,
Since none who see it but at once discern
A cylinder of more than half-yard long,
Which, by compression, *oft* has flatted sides;
With aperture, alike, at either end,
In which the arms are introduc'd with ease,
Envelopp'd there with sarcenet stuff'd with wool.'

As the author concludes in a very benevolent strain, we will part with him by expressing the generous wish that the Muses, in future, may smile on him with more complacency. Moo-y.

Art. 35. *The British Oak*, a Poem. 4to. 3s. Cadell and Davies. 1800.

In this tribute of praise to the highly Useful and Venerable OAK, the sentiments have more merit than the poetry, and the patriot rises superior to the bard. The notes will both inform and entertain the reader.

We understand that this pamphlet was the production of the late Mr. Holliday of Lincoln's Inn, author of the Life of the Earl of Mansfield, &c.

Art. 36. *Britons United*; or *Britannia roused:* in humble Verse, upon different Subjects before and subsequent to the Battle of the Nile, applauding the patriotic and persevering Spirit of our brave Countrymen; is humbly presented by John Stewart, late of Mr. Secretary Dundas's Office, Downing-street. 8vo. 1s. Stewart. 1800.

As Mr. Stewart is himself aware, according to his own confession, that the *humble verse* which he here so *humbly presents* 'does not merit much praise in the eyes of a critic,' he will not expect from us any very strong commendation. We are sorry, indeed, that his loyalty and patriotism derive little advantage from his rhyming effusions. He might have amused himself: but he should not have attempted to amuse the public.

Moy.

Art. 37. *Signs of the Times*, (a Poem,) or the Downfall of the Pope, and the Papal Hierarchy: with Observations on Six Hundred Sixty Six, the Number of the Roman Beast. Also a Contrast between the Numbers Six and Seven. By William Scott. 8vo. 6d. Crosby and Co.

We are far from questioning Mr. Scott's goodness, but he makes a very liberal use of the *term* which designates a *naughty woman*, without generating any thing which has the most distant resemblance to poetry. Within the space of two pages, we have the following couplets:

'The Pope cast out, his seat knows him no more
The Roman Beast, like fire, burns up the Roman Whore.'

'The like Reform which now consumes Rome's Whore,
Shall burn up "Anti-Christ" for ever more.'

Mr. S. has not a better talent at explanation than he discovers in the art of *poem*-making; at least, our understandings are too dense to be pierced by the illumination which he conveys:

'[6, 6, 6,] units, tens, hundreds; six is all the sum;
Go on uniting, ad infinitum;
Yet SIX, SIX, SIX:—the beastly number given,
Ne'er did, nor will, nor can, make number SEV'N.
Therefore the word of God doth ever fix,
Man's highest number at precisely SIX.'

Misnomers frequently occur in the titles of books, and we think that the present pamphlet affords an instance.—Suppose, instead of *Signs of the Times*, we read *Symptoms of Nonsense?*

Do.

POLITICS.

Art. 38. *Considerations on the Present State of Europe*, with Respect to Peace, or the further Prosecution of the War. 8vo. pp. 120. 3s. Debrett. 1801.

"Principles change with times;" and in nothing is this axiom more completely verified than in politics. Not long ago, it was contended that the nature of the Government of France, and her annexation of Belgium to her territory, were insuperable obstacles to peace: but we are now told that we must not consider the form of the French Government as a decided barrier to pacification; and that, as to the Belgic provinces, they can by no means be so injurious to us in the hands of France, as some politicians have represented: The author of this pamphlet, in discussing our situation with respect to peace and war, considers us as *in utrumque parati*. If peace be the object, he points out on what terms and by what concessions it ought

to

to be made; and if a continuance of war be deemed for the present more advisable, he shews in what way we are to arrange our naval force. 'Great Britain, (he observes,) to keep her footing with France in the civilized world, must, as France extends her integral dominion, increase her colonial possessions and foreign settlements.' He is therefore for retaining the most important of our conquests, as Ceylon, Trinidada, Minorca, and even Malta: but, if Malta must be surrendered, he advises that it should be given to the Emperor of Germany. At all events, it is recommended to throw the odium of the farther prosecution of the war *from* our own government, and to place it on the shoulders of our enemies.

Moo-y.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Art. 39. *A Proposal in Behalf of the Married Poor.* 8vo. 1s. 6d. Arch.

The scheme here proposed is prefaced by observations which evince the author's acquaintance with the subject discussed; and though his plan may fail of producing all the good which he supposed, we are persuaded that, if his ideas respecting the poor and the present code of poor laws were generally prevalent, less vice and less misery would be found among the indigent classes of society.

The system pursued in Holland is particularly recommended. In that country, a common beggar was a very rare sight; though the population was immense, compared with the number of acres, and though the inhabitants groaned under an enormous weight of taxes. 'In Holland (says this writer) the poor were considered as the helpless children of the state; and the parent state accordingly fostered them in a manner becoming a moral, sober, and most industrious people; taking an especial care, at the same time, that the labour of those who were relieved should reimburse the parent state; and thus, while their poor were comfortably supported, morals were aided and industry promoted to a degree that excited the admiration of mankind.'

This example merits imitation. Instead of indiscriminate charity, which is a perversion of virtue; and of indolent charity, which is no virtue at all; let our bounty towards the poor originate in good principles, and be directed by superintending wisdom. We have frequently heard it lamented that the distributors of parochial aid do not distinguish between the sober and the profligate, the industrious and the idle; and that, owing to this neglect, the stimulus to virtuous attention and activity is gradually subsiding in the bosoms of the poor. Hence a serious evil is forming, which cannot be too soon corrected; and to apply a remedy to this disorder is one object of the author of this pamphlet. He proposes to appoint, in every parish, besides the common overseers, a committee of inspectors, who may be qualified by their situation and talents to observe the conduct of the poor, and to become guardians of their rising progeny, distinctly from the general care of the parish paupers.—As the author's observations, however, are on the whole excellent, we rather recommend his general view of the subject, than limit our praise to his proposal, which is open to some objections.

D.o

Art. 40. *Travels in the Interior of Africa*, from the Cape of Good Hope to Morocco, from the Years 1781 to 1797; through Caffraria, the Kingdoms of Mataman, Angola, Massi, Monœmugi, Muschako, &c. Likewise across the great Desart of Sahara, and the Northern Parts of Barbary. Translated from the German of Christian Frederic Damberger. Illustrated by a Map and coloured Plates. 8vo. 10s. 6d. Boards. Phillips. Another Edition printed for Longman and Co. 1801.

Since the appearance of this work in English, we have learnt from various quarters, as well as from the pamphlet which is the subject of the next article, that the original is a most barefaced and impudent forgery, manufactured from books [Dampier, &c.] by the felonious industry of a journeyman printer, of Wittenberg; by whom the too credulous booksellers of Germany, France, and England, have been completely *taken in*:—as were also (tell it not in Gath,) some foreign REVIEWERS!!!

Art. 41. *Of the Shoe maker Schrödter, the Printer Taurinius, and the Cabinet-maker Damberger*, who never travelled at all, but fabricated their Accounts in one Manufactory. 8vo. 1s. Geisweiler. 1801.

From the unquestionable and curious circumstances here detailed, it appears that two books of Eastern Travels published under the name of Joseph Schrödter, as well as another book under that of Damberger, were both fabricated by a Saxon mechanic, a printer, who called himself Zacharias Taurinius.—This *genius* seems to have undertaken, from his lofty garret, to shew us (like the *father of lies*, from the top of the high mountain) "all the kingdoms of the world" but, also like his great master in the art of deception, he has at last failed in the attempt, and the cause of truth is as usual finally triumphant.

Art. 42. *The Controversy between Mrs. Hannah More and the Curate of Blagdon*, [in Somersetshire,] relative to the Conduct of her Teacher of the Sunday School in that Parish; with the original Letters and explanatory Notes. By Thomas Bere, M. A. Rector of Butcombe near Bristol. 8vo. 3s. Jordan. 1801.

It appears from this narrative, that Mr. Bere was instrumental to the dismission of the teacher in a sunday school established at Blagdon under the superintendency of Mrs. H. More. The charge brought against the school master was that of favoring methodism; and Mr. B. seems to have conceived an idea that Mrs. M. had befriended, if not actually countenanced this man. On this ground, much literary altercation and misunderstanding arose, the particulars of which form the chief part of the pamphlet before us. Many persons of consequence, (*in* the *church* and *out*,) appeared in support and vindication of the conduct of the celebrated patroness. The spirit of discord arose among the disputants; and matters were so far carried that, at last, the curate of Blagdon was in his turn dismissed from his office in that place, and left to reflect on

"————— Milo's end,
Wedg'd in the timber which he strove to rend."

Mr.

Mr. B.'s narrative, however, is witten with a competent degree of spirit; and he appears to console himself with the reflection that he has done his duty, as a faithful son of the Church of England.

Art. 43. *Letter to the Rev. Thomas Bere, Rector of Butcombe,* occasioned by his late unwarrantable Attack on Mrs. Hannah More. With an *Appendix,* containing Letters and other Documents relative to the extraordinary Proceedings at Blagdon. By the Rev. Sir Abraham Elton, Bart. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Cadell and Davies.

This publication is drawn up with ability; and though in *matter* the author is perhaps unavoidably severe on his opponent, yet in his manner of writing he treats Mr. B. with proper respect and decorum. In conclusion, however, he seems to insist on that gentleman's acknowleging, as a condition of reconciliation, that he has made '*an unwarrantable attack*' on Mrs. H. M.—It is not our province to give judgment in this case.

Art. 44. *The Life of* *********, *Esq.* With the Circumstance of his Conversion, under the Preaching of the Gospel, at the Providence Chapel in London. Being a Testimonial of unmerited Free Grace, and the Sovereignty of God, in the Choice of his elect People. Written by Himself. 2d Edition. 8vo. 1s. Bath, printed for Meyler, &c. London, Priestley, &c. 1801.

We scarcely know in what light to view this strange production: but it appears to us that, under the *similitude,* as honest John Bunyan would say, of memoirs of a Methodistical chimney-sweeper, a severe attack is here made on the principles of certain sectarians, the *predestinarian* tribe, which are here painted in most horrible colours!—and this is done under such guise, that some credulous readers may imagine the pamphlet to have really been written by a person of the description announced in the title-page.—Other ideas, however, may be excited by perusing the *Remark* printed at the end of this *apocryphal* performance.

Art. 45. *Narrative of the singular Adventures and Captivity of Mr. Thomas Barry,* among the Monsipi Indians, in the unexplored Regions of North America, during the years 1797, 1798, and 1799: including the Manners, Customs, &c. of that Tribe; also a particular Account of his Escape, accompanied by an American Female; the extraordinary Hardships they encountered; and their safe Arrival in London. Written by Himself. 12mo. 1s. Neil, in Sommers-town, near London. 1800.

If the extraordinary adventures here set forth be really and honestly founded on facts, we should not scruple to recommend this little story as a truly interesting publication. If, on the contrary, it shall prove to be only the mere offspring of *Invention,* it will naturally be consigned to oblivion. We cannot decide the question:—appearances are in favour of the authenticity of the narrative, but appearances are often deceitful.

Art. 46. *Scattered Thoughts, adapted to the Times; and particularly to the present Season.* By a Friend to Church and State. Small 12mo. 3d. Hatchard.

This scatterer is very good in not diffusing his thoughts over a multitude of pages; and we thank him for his brevity: but in other repsects we do not find much occasion for gratitude. He censures the Quakers for not shutting their shops on Good-Friday, the Jews for want of outward respect to the Christian Sabbath, and Protestant Christians for allowing 'hot-cross buns to be sold on Good Friday.' Before, however, he had so strenuously urged the religious observance of this day on all Christians, and had reprobated those who neglect it, he should have produced an order for its observance from Scripture: since, if it be a duty of *universal obligation*, it must be so in consequence of some positive command. Paul's liberal principle, in Rom. xiv. 6., should be applied on this and on all similar occasions. Mo-y.

Art. 47. *Reflections on the Present State of Things in these Nations.* By the late excellent Dissenting Divine, John Leland, D. D.; and now re-published by a Lay-Member of the Church of England. 8vo. 4d. Hatchard.

These reflections are re-printed from the Appendix to the second volume of Dr. Leland's *View of the Principal Deistical Writers*, (see M. Rev. Old Series, vol. xii. p. 171. 422.) and were written half a century ago in the form of a discourse in consequence of a proclamation for a general fast. Dr. L.'s observations are not only serious, but what are termed *awakening*; and they apply to the present as well as to the past *immoral* state of the nation: but there is nothing in them which can distinguish them from many similar exhortations to repentance, that have been preached and published both by Established and Dissenting Clergy on these occasions.

The pamphlet is introduced by a prefatory note from the editor, which concludes with this pious and patriotic prayer:

'May the spirit of wisdom, that abandons only those whose destruction is *irrevocably doomed*, still adhere to us! and may it lead us, individually and collectively, to such a state of mind, and such practices of life, as may authorize us to look up with confidence for the protection and deliverance of PROVIDENCE, in this time of EXTREME VISITATION!' D.º

Art. 48. *Précis Historique de la Vie et du Pontificat de Pie VI. Par M. Blanchard, Bachelier de Sorbonne, et curé de S. Hypolite, Diocèse de Lisieux.* 8vo. pp. 218. 4s. sewed. Dulau and Co.

It was not to be expected that the "*Historical and Philosophical Memoirs of Pius VI.*" written by a republican and a *philosophe*, (see M. Rev. vol. xxix. p. 563. N. S.) should pass without animadversion. The Catholic Church could not remain silent spectators of this attack on its sovereign pontiff. Whether Mr. Blanchard be a voluntary or a deputed champion, we know not: but he here opposes himself to the author of that work, and performs his part with much zeal and dexterity. He reprobates the *Memoirs* as tending to vilify the late Pope, whom he exalts as 'beyond all praise.' As far as they contribute to advance the reputation or to reflect honour on the memory of Pius VI., they are admitted to be true; and to counteract any remark or anecdote of an opposite tendency, we are presented with details from 'respectable personages,' calculated to excite the most

enthusiastic veneration of the Pontiff, and an utter detestation of his enemies.—Between the philosophical biographer and the professed encomiast, the impartial historian will draw the line; and he who wishes fairly to appreciate the character of Pius VI. will compare the two accounts of him. We, who regard no man (not even a Pope) as infallible, and who know that situations of supreme power are not very propitious to virtue, can easily suppose that a Pope may have his faults: but, whatever were those of the late Pontiff, it must be confessed that he atoned for them by his misfortunes; and we are persuaded that, with every humane protestant, the consideration of his failings will be lost in admiration of the resignation and magnanimity which he displayed under his sorrows and humiliations.

Art. 49. *Lavater's Looking-Glass;* or Essays on the Face of animated Nature, from Man to Plants. Dedicated to her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire. By Lavater, Sue, and Co. 8vo. pp. 209. 5s. 6d. Boards. Richardsons, &c. 1800.

Had *Physiognomy* been an article of commerce, we should have taken this signature for the *firm* of a house dealing in that commodity: but what *Lavater, Sue, and Co.* have to do in the present instance, we cannot tell. The Duchess of Devonshire will probably not be flattered by a dedication from non-entities, and the public will look with eyes askance on a publication which comes in so questionable a shape. It is a compilation from Lavater's work; and those who admire physiognomical disquisitions may derive from it some gratification.

Art. 50. *The Sceptic.* 8vo. pp. 70. West and Hughes. 1800.

Some wag, whose lucubrations we suspect to have come under our cognizance in a graver garb *, has here indulged himself most irreverently in a laugh at some late chemical and chemico-pathological doctrines. Many of his jokes relate to Mr. Davy's experiments on light, and must in course fall blunted by that gentleman's candid retraction of the opinions which he had expressed. We shall extract the following passages, as a specimen of the author's manner:

'Sometimes Caloric will appear when nobody thought him near them; and even his brother Antiphlogiston stares with astonishment, and wonders how the D—l he came there; as lately happened in the presence of Count Rumford and of Mr. Davy.

'In fact, they, as well as Antiphlogiston himself, were so struck with his appearance, that they concluded he must be either the D—l, or perpetual motion personified, they hardly knew how; and they hardly knew which: except Mr. Davy, who at last swore that he was motion and nothing else.

'Some people take him for the D—l, and treat him as such: for example, certain great Physicians have lately entered into a compact with him; the conditions of which are, that Caloric shall be at their call and command, to enter into strange shapes and combinations, and to suffer himself to be *conjured* into a *bladder*. In this state he is to be sold to make their fortunes; when (as soon as the money is

* The pamphlet is printed at Retford.

paid,)

paid,) he disengages himself from the purchaser, leaving nothing but his nastiness behind him.'

It is the fate of squibs, like the present, to die before the object at which they are discharged; and the interest of the general satire, in this pamphlet, is already annihilated. **Fer.**

Art. 51. *A Satirical View of London*, at the Commencement of the xixth Century. By an Observer. 8vo. 5s. Boards. Kearsley, &c. 1801.

A very entertaining and well-written performance; the author of which appears to be a man of extensive knowlege and just observation; possessing also an acute discrimination of characters and manners.—We say that his book is well-written, and so, in general, it unquestionably is: but we must make a slight exception in regard to the casual introduction of what are called *Irishisms* and *Scotticisms*,—such as, p. 47. '*will*' for *shall*; and p. 217, 'we *will* fix' &c. with one or two other such little slips, which seem to mark that the writer is not an Englishman. As we learn that he is preparing for a second edition, we wish him to correct also a misquotation from Pope, viz. p. 233,

"To mend the genius, and inform the heart."

It should be

"To raise the genius, and to mend the heart."

Art. 52. *Sequel to Barrington's Voyage to New South Wales*, comprehending an interesting narrative of the Transactions and Behaviour of the Convicts; the Progress of the Colony; and an official Register of Crimes, Trials, Sentences, and Executions that have taken place: a topographical, and moral Account of the Country, Manners, Customs, &c. of the natives, and most distinguished Convicts, &c. By the celebrated George Barrington, principal Superintendant of the Convicts. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Symonds. 1800.

In p. 474. of our Review for December, 1795, we had an opportunity of recommending to our readers the former part of Mr. B.'s account of his (*involuntary*) voyage to New South Wales, and of his favourable situation in the vicinity of Botany Bay. What we then remarked concerning the character of this heteroclite adventurer in the wildest walks of society, and the general merit of his narrative, will circumstantially and strictly apply to this second publication; and now we are glad to find that the author remains a living * proof that *extirpation* is not always the best method of curing the moral diseases of erring members of society:—for such an instance is certainly afforded by the case of this useful (we may add respectable) police officer, whose reformation and subsequent conduct have procured for him the highest approbation which, in his *expatriated* circumstances, he could possibly acquire.

In his concluding paragraph, Mr. B. takes occasion to speak of himself in the following not unbecoming terms:

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* At least he was so at the end of the year 1796, (if we mistake not the precise time,) when he concluded this second part of his narrative; the dates of which are very imperfectly given.

'During

"During this time, my domestic concerns improved imperceptibly, so that my situation was equal, if not preferable to most of the *Settlers* * here; having a flock of sheep consisting of thirty-eight, with fourteen goats, a most excellent milch cow, half a dozen breeding sows, and a very plentiful stock of poultry; and to add to the comforts of my situation, in the month of September 1796, his Excellency Governor Hunter was pleased to present me with an absolute pardon, under the great seal of the colony, and appointed me a principal superintendant of the district of Parrematta, with a permanent salary of 50 pounds a year, in the room of Thomas Clark, who was returning to Enland.—Hitherto my situation had been only provisional.—The Governor was pleased to compliment me on "the faithful discharge of my duty, the integrity and uniform uprightness of my conduct, and my general behaviour during my whole residence in the colony," which he said, "perfectly obliterated every trace of my former indiscretions."

Art. 53. *Correspondence relative to the stationing of a Troop of the 4th Regiment of Dragoons, in the County of Carnarvon.* 8vo. pp. 54. 2s. 6d. Cadell and Davies, &c. 1801.

This pamphlet is said to be published 'from motives of respect to his Majesty's 4th regiment of Dragoons;' but we do not see that the *conduct* of that regiment is in any degree implicated in the transaction here related. The Correspondence consists of letters between Magistrates of Carnarvonshire, the Lord Lieutenant of that county, the Duke of Portland, the General commanding in the North-western district, &c. respecting the arrival of a troop of the 4th Dragoons at Carnarvon and Bangor in January last, in consequence of information sent by some of the Magistrates to the War-office, that there was danger of insurrection among the quarry men. The opinions of the county Magistrates varied on this occasion; some urging and others denying the necessity and propriety of this military manœuvre; and the present pamphlet appears to come from one of the Justices who were of the latter persuasion, and whose letters to the Lord-Lieutenant, the General, &c. compose the greater part of it.—The question admits of no opinion from us.

G. 2.

Art. 54. *The Western Mail.* Being a Series of Letters, &c. 12mo. 4s. sewed. Mawman. 1801.

PLAN. The Western mail is robbed by the unhappy husband of a wretched wife, and father of several starving children. The unfortunate depredator expiates his crime at the gallows: after which, a friend to his hapless family finds in their possession a bag † of curious letters; many of which he benevolently (but not scrupulously)

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* Persons not transported, but voluntary colonists, farmers, &c.

† Surely no good moral is inculcated by the story of the bag of letters. An honorable discoverer of property so feloniously obtained would have returned the bag, with its contents, to the *Post-office*, instead of sending them *to the Press!*—As to our doing evil that good may come of it, we know where that notion is absolutely reprobated.

determines

determines to publish for the benefit of the widow and children of his late friend, who so unlawfully obtained them. Here, then, commences a miscellany of well imagined correspondence: but the names and dates are all very prudently suppressed.—The supposed writers are persons of almost every rank and degree, and of both sexes; who respectively express themselves in a style not ill adapted to their several assumed characters, situations, and circumstances. Several of the letters are seasoned with humour: but most of them are appropriated to subjects of a moral and prudential cast; while not a few serve to amuse us with scenes exhibiting traits of high life, and enlivened with pictures of men and manners, vices and follies, selected from the *fashionable world.* These are sketched with a pencil which manifests a degree of genius in the artist; displaying a variety of natural and just resemblances of such originals as are generally well known, in the public and private walks of life, from the proud Peer to the humble Peasant, and from the haughty titled Dame to the flirting Chambermaid, or the simple Dairy-girl, fresh from her honest father's little farm.—We have also touches of a literary kind, in which the writer's judgment and taste are displayed, with no mean degree of success, on various topics relative to politics, poetry, criticism, &c. &c.

We have not the smallest ground of conjecture respecting the author's identity; but, whoever he be, we cannot close his performance without acknowleging the entertainment which he has afforded us;—notwithstanding that we were somewhat inclined to bring him to justice as a dealer in "stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen."

SINGLE SERMONS.

Art. 55. *Farewell Sermon, preached at Market-Deeping,* April 6, 1800, by the Rev. Robert Lascelles Carr, late Curate of the Parish, and now Curate of the Parish of All-Saints in Stamford. 4to. 1s. West.

This discourse indicates good-sense, and is of a practical and useful tendency: but it is singular; and it abounds with reproof, mingled with affection. If the preacher censures his audience, he at the same time acknowleges his own failures; while he respectfully notices the friendly attention and regard which he had experienced among them. **Hi.**

Art. 56. *Preached in the Parish Church of All-Saints, Stamford,* 13th February, 1801, being the Day appointed for a General Fast, by the Rev. Robert Lascelles Carr, Curate of that Parish. 4to. 1s. 6d. White.

Mr. Carr here considers and deplores national offences, with freedom and propriety; from a view of them, he apprehend that 'every man who believes the great truths of Revelation will be necessarily led to this conclusion,—that unless a serious change takes place in the morals of this corrupted country, some signal judgment will fall on us.'—We do not observe that he mentions dishonesty, bribery, perjury, &c. among the national crimes. **Hi.**

Art.

Art. 57. *Preached before the Lords Spiritual and Temporal,* in the Abbey Church, Westminster, Feb. 13, 1801, being the Day appointed by Proclamation for a General Fast. By Brownlow, Lord Bishop of Winchester. 4to. 1s. 6d. Wright.

This sermon forms a commentary on Proverbs xiv. 34. *Righteousness exalteth a nation;* and the Right Rev. author has with great felicity illustrated the important doctrine which that passage contains. It is a temperate and judicious composition, in which his Lordship has introduced no political discussions; justly observing 'that political details are unfit for this place.'

We have derived unalloyed pleasure from the perusal of this discourse; and we recommend it to the attention of our readers, on account of the purity of the doctrines which it inculcates, and the correct and eloquent language in which those sentiments are conveyed. S.R.

Art. 58. *Preached before the Honourable House of Commons,* at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Westminster, Feb. 13, 1801, being the Day appointed for a General Fast. By Richard Prosser, D. D. Rector of Gateshead, Durham. 4to. 1s. 6d. Payne, &c.

A judicious and impressive sermon on the text, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock." Rev. ch. viii. ver. 19. from which the writer endeavours to draw consolation from the very misfortunes which we have experienced. He recommends, with earnestness, a general penitence for the sins that we have committed; and that the sincerity of this contrition should be evinced by general amendment.—The discourse is well adapted to the occasion, and may be perused with advantage. D.o

Art. 59. Preached in the Parish Church of Dudley, on Feb. 13, 1801, (the General Fast,) containing an *Address to British Soldiers:* a respectable Body of them being present. By the Rev. L. Booker, LL. D. 8vo. 1s. 6d. West and Hughes.

The title-page farther informs us that this sermon was published in consequence of request, for the benefit of the *Soup Charity.*—We should have been glad if that part of it, which is particularly addressed to the soldiery, had been *extracted,* and circulated among the British troops wherever so proper an exhortation could conveniently have been distributed to them.

Art. 60. Preached before the Mayor, &c. of the Town of Berwick upon Tweed, 13th Feb. 1801, being the Day appointed for a General Fast. By the Rev. William Stow Lundie, B. A. 4to. 1s. Law.

An exhortation to pious gratitude, to repentance, and to charity. Mr. Lundie animadverts on the prevalence of adultery, and laments the long continuance of the present direful but *just and necessary* contest. He congratulates his countrymen on the Union with Ireland; which, he thinks, with an effectual reformation of manners and the return of peace, may make us the happiest of Nations. Mooy.

Art.

Art. 61. *The Gospel Testimony:* preached at the Opening of the New Meeting, near Greenland Dock, Rotherhithe, Aug. 25, 1800. By John Townsend. 8vo. 1s. Mathews.

This long sermon, the delivery of which occupied an hour and a quarter, is completely antiquated both in form and substance. The *spot* on which it was preached is said to be 'a populous neighbourhood,' where several of the author's *members* are reported to be scattered: who are exhorted to adhere to the Calvinistic tenets as the glorious doctrines of the Gospel. Mr. T. quotes a variety of texts in support of his dogmas: but, when he represents Christ as *bearing our sins and sorrows*, he does not exhibit the Gospel explication of that phrase given in Matthew viii. 17. He glories in the old fashioned system; instead of which he represents 'some as delivering a few well-selected scraps of natural history, and others some good hints upon morality:' but such preachers, he solaces himself with thinking, deliver their essays to empty pews and bare walls; while those of his persuasion build churches and fill them.

It may be retorted that the ignorant always outnumber the wise; that the Church of Christ is represented as a *little flock;* and that numbers never formed, and never will form, the test of truth.

Moo-y.

Art. 62. *Freedom of Enquiry, and Zeal in the Diffusion of Christian Truth, asserted and recommended,* in a Discourse delivered at Bristol, July 9, 1800, before the Society of Unitarian Christians, established in the West of England, for promoting Christian Knowledge and the Practice of Virtue, by the Distribution of Books. By Thomas Belsham. 8vo. 1s. Johnson.

On the importance of freedom of inquiry, there cannot be two opinions among those who are qualified to give a sentiment on the subject. Serious examination and unrestrained discussion are essential to the discovery and elucidation of truth; and religious truth is of such great moment, that we cannot with justice to mankind refuse or interrupt their access to it. The prohibition—or even the discouragement—of inquiry seems to convey an intimation which the enlightened and conscientious believer cannot patiently endure. Satisfied of the ability of his cause to withstand the most fiery ordeal, he is so far from dreading scrutiny, that he is incessantly provoking it; persuaded that, the oftener truth passes through the refiner's crucible, the purer and more brilliant it will appear. While we beg to stand foremost in the list of subscribers to this principle, and while we in general maintain the importance and utility of discussion, we must, however, remind our readers that all are not equally capable of investigating every subject; and that there are certain points even in the department of religion, about which the multitude have indeed a full right, but a very contracted qualification to inquire. Ought not learned and philosophic Christians to take this circumstance into their consideration, and to abate the exorbitancy of their expectations? Would it not be prudent in them to remember, that the eminent philosophers of antiquity never thought of bringing the great mass of mankind to fully comprehend and embrace their respective systems? The cases indeed are not exactly the same, but

in one view they are perfectly parallel. Though the Gospel is preached to the poor, and though the doctrines of revealed religion are level to the plainest capacity, that knowlege which is necessary to a critical examination of the genuine evidences and testimonies of Christianity demands an extent of learning which cannot appertain to the vulgar. The language in which it was originally delivered is now become obsolete; and new languages have since sprung up, into which the sense of the antient scripture is, in some instances, with difficulty transfused. By the philologist, this obstacle is surmountable: but with the multitude it must remain an impediment which should teach them to refrain from being too dogmatical and conceited; and it should suppress that inconsiderate ardor which some discover, to include all mankind in the class of well-informed and accurately thinking Christians. Experience evinces the truth of this observation. Propose some principle of religious quackery, some fascinating dogma, by which the road to heaven is made more facile than by the regular but arduous course of practical piety and morality, and multitudes will readily embrace the delusion, and flock around the banners of the sect: but, if the proposal be tedious examination and research into the authenticity of scripture, and into the genuine drift and purport of its unsophisticated language, in order to dispel the mists of error and prejudice, to simplify faith, and to erect virtue on the basis of knowlege,—few comparatively will listen to it. Should these few happen to be distinguished, their tenets may obtain reputation; or should they be powerful, establishment may be effected: but the multitude will assent without adequate judgment, and believe without accurate discrimination.

While, then, we admire the abilities and learning of Mr. Belsham, and applaud his discourse as suited to a congregation of philosophers, we doubt whether the common mass of Christians can sufficiently appreciate the value of the privilege for which he so energetically pleads. Nothing, however, which we have advanced, is intended to repress inquiry. Mr. B. has illustrated its importance; and no cause can have a stable foundation which shrinks from it.

Moo-y.

Art. 63. *Preached to a Society of Protestant Dissenters, in the City of York,* Dec. 31, 1800, immediately after the Interment of the Rev. Newcombe Cappe; with an Appendix containing brief Memoirs of his Life. By William Wood, F. L. S. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Johnson.

Affection and respect for the virtuous dead prepare the mind, in an especial manner, for serious impressions. Hence the moral preacher avails himself with peculiar satisfaction of such opportunities as that which was presented to Mr. Wood; and while he celebrates departed worth, he exhibits an example to the living, and demonstrates the infinite importance of religious principle when reduced to practice. Both the sermon and the memoir will give the reader no mean idea of the character of the deceased, and of the abilities of his surviving friend and biographer.

Mr. Cappe did not confine his labours to the pulpit, but extended them to the press, as several of our Reviews have borne testimony; and

and we are here told that he has left for publication some dissertations on Christ's temptation, on the introduction to John's Gospel, and on the meaning of the phrases *the kingdom of God*, and *the kingdom of heaven*. These are curious subjects; and, if discussed with ability and learning, they will not fail to invite attention.

Moo.y

CORRESPONDENCE.

In answer to the friendly remarks of *Hinckleiensis*, respecting the recent advance in the price of the Monthly Review, we beg to inform him that his idea of decreasing the quantity of our work, instead of adding to its price, in order to meet the unparalleled rise in the cost of paper, &c. certainly suggested itself to us, and was duly considered: but, besides the immediate objection to lessening the number of our pages in any considerable degree, that it would in an equal proportion decrease the utility of our labours, by abridging them at a time when the abundance of publications seems to require an extension of them; we found, on calculation, that the diminution of a whole sheet of letter press in each Number (and *more* could not be contemplated) would equal only about *one half* of the enormous expences to which we are now subjected, and which are likely to augment rather than contract. What may ultimately be the effect of such imposts and extortions, we cannot say: but, though we must *abide* their consequences, we are not *responsible* for them; and the step which we have taken is the result of absolute necessity,—not of choice.

We are sorry that we cannot comply with Mr. Grose's request: but we are often obliged to trespass on the patience of authors. This Gentleman's publication will not be forgotten, but it must take its turn.—To Mr. Saunderson, a similar answer must be given.

Z. is informed that we certainly design to review the work concerning which he writes: but, in the mean time, the reputation of its author may be a warrant to this correspondent that his money will not be thrown away in the purchase of it.

The sermon mentioned in a letter from Christ Church, Oxford, has not yet reached us: but we shall pay all proper attention to the circumstances now communicated, when it comes before us.

To 'a Constant Reader of the M. R.' we have to observe that it would be contrary to our rules to accede to his request.

☞ In the last *Appendix*, p. 475. for 'Winckelman,' r. *Winckelman*.—P. 544. l. penult. for 'Abbeville,' r. *Abloville*.

In the number for May, p. 59. l. 3. from bott. take the mark of parenthesis from after '*vol.*' and place it after '7*s.*'—P. 94. last line, for 'mark,' r. *marked*.

Errors, p 210, 212, 217.